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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19804

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1997 • KISLEV 19, 5758 • 18 SHAABAN 1418

NIS 4.50 (EILAT NIS 3.95)



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AGENDA

By AVINOM BAR-YOSEF

Preparing maps for Albright

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu held a dress rehearsal on Monday evening at the Likud faction meeting for today's meeting with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Netanyahu brought Foreign Minister David Levy along with him to the faction meeting, following a proposal to include Levy in the entourage which left for Paris last night.

Since forming his government, Netanyahu has preferred to leave matters vague so as to allow room for maneuvering in the negotiations. However, he now has said, in response to some of his colleagues who claimed that any map submitted to the Americans would be considered an opening move rather than a final one: "This is essential for propaganda purposes abroad."

One has to admit - the man has some creative ideas. Propaganda is usually designed to promote policy. This is the first time that I can recall that policy has been determined as a way of "promoting" propaganda.

See AGENDA, Page 8

Gil pleads innocent

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Yehuda Gil, the former Mossad agent charged with feeding his superiors false information that almost brought Israel to the brink of war with Syria last year, yesterday pleaded innocent to all charges against him.

Gil was brought to the Tel Aviv District Court, where his trial began behind closed doors, in a car whose windows were curtained, and he entered surrounded by security guards. Publication of his likeness is banned.

The indictment accused him of giving false information to the Mossad with the intention of damaging the state. According to the prosecution, the alleged crime falls under the espionage law.

He is also charged with receiving money under false pretenses and theft. The prosecution noted that only a few of the charges were released for publication.

Gil denied all the charges in the indictment.

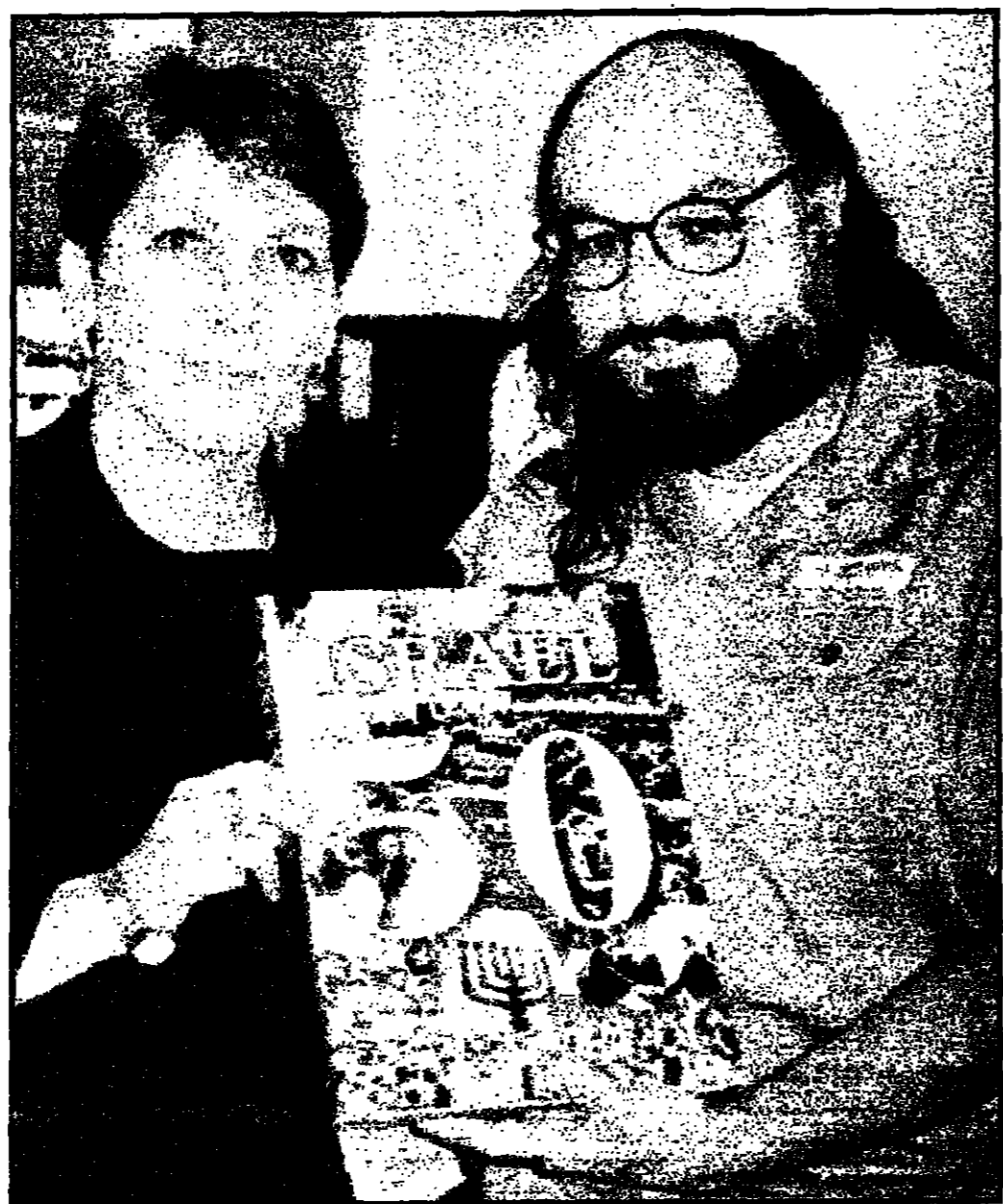
See GIL, Page 3

Unlikely angel swoops from the sky

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

On his way to honor a fallen IDF soldier yesterday, OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan helped save the life of a Palestinian motorist trapped in a mangled West Bank wreck.

Dayan had been flying in his military helicopter from his Jerusalem headquarters toward the Galilee, when he spotted a traffic accident between a semitrailer and



Communications Minister Limor Livnat poses with spy Jonathan Pollard yesterday at the Butner, N.C. penitentiary. The two hold a book Livnat gave him celebrating Israel's 50th anniversary in 1998, the year Pollard hopes to be set free. (AP)

Pollard blasts Levy for opposing meetings

By HILLEL KUTTLER

Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard yesterday lashed out at Foreign Minister David Levy for allegedly discouraging meetings by Israeli officials with him.

Pollard compared Levy to the "idiot" who designed the flawed bridge that collapsed at last summer's Maccabiah Games.

The Foreign Ministry last night issued a statement denying it had any policy against visits to Pollard and asserting it is making constant efforts to effect his release.

Pollard, serving a life sentence at the federal penitentiary in Butner, North Carolina, met for an hour yesterday with visiting Communications Minister Limor Livnat, along with Israel's deputy consul from Atlanta and two Israeli reporters.

Pollard expressed "profound sorrow and remorse" for passing secrets to Israel while a civilian analyst of the US Navy.

"My motives may have been well and good, but they only serve

to explain why I did what I did. They certainly don't serve as an excuse for breaking the law," he said.

He also called upon Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Labor Party leader Ehud Barak to send a joint letter to the American Jewish community that would enable Livnat or Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman to come to Washington and officially seek congressional assistance in pressing for Pollard's release.

"[This is] the first time that an Israeli prime minister writes a personal letter to Jonathan Pollard," Livnat told Israeli reporters. "The time has come to stop being quiet and to make open, public efforts to stand by his side - but mainly to bring about his release," she said.

Pollard said there are senators who support him but are reluctant to argue on his behalf, because they believe the Israeli government and opposition "don't ask in a way that suggests they are serious." Therefore, Pollard says they

have told him, "Why should we expend the political capital on going to the president?"

But Pollard's harshest words were reserved for Levy. Noting that he heads the Geshet (bridge) Party, Pollard said: "He sees himself as a Geshet. Right now, the type of Geshet that he is exhibiting is like the bridge at the Maccabiah Games. It was designed by an idiot, it was foolishly constructed, and it ultimately collapsed on those people who relied on it to safeguard their lives."

"I don't think that Mr. Levy really wants his Geshet, whether it be in my case or politically speaking within Israel, to be seen as that kind of unstable, self-serving, ultimately disastrous affair. I would like to ask him then, from the bottom of my heart, as we say in America, to please be a team player. There is enough honor... in Israel to go around for everyone. When I come home, he won't have to worry about me anymore."

Levy shuns talks with Albright

By JAY BUSHINSKY

PARIS - Foreign Minister David Levy yesterday refused to join Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's meeting with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Paris today, saying the discussion would be sterile in the absence of firm government commitments on a West Bank withdrawal.

"A prime minister who goes on

Instead, Netanyahu chose to confer privately with National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, who had accused him of jeopardizing national security and crossing red lines that threatened the incumbent coalition's continued existence. A senior government official said Netanyahu managed to mollify Sharon, but the prime minister remained unable to convince Levy that his trip to Paris

Palestinian Authority complies fully with its obligations to combat terrorism during the next six months.

At the same time, the ministers agreed that Netanyahu would present a general outline of the prospective troop pullback to Albright while refraining from putting any maps on the table.

Following yesterday's three-hour cabinet meeting, Netanyahu

PM accused of trading territories for terror' Page 2

an important mission such as this must come ready with ideas and proposals that both embody our interests and can advance the peace process," Levy said.

Netanyahu arrived in Paris last night confident he would be able to convince Albright that Israel has very limited room for maneuver in delineating the next IDF pullback in the West Bank.

A political source familiar with the prime minister's game plan said Netanyahu will not present a precise proposal for withdrawal, or unfurl any maps except the Oslo map.

"It is possible to explain our interests by means of a verbal description," the source said.

After the fourth cabinet meeting on the West Bank withdrawal issue proved inconclusive yesterday, Levy urged Netanyahu to reconvene the ministers for a fifth time before his departure for Paris, but the prime minister refused.



Foreign Minister David Levy (left) and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

would be worthwhile.

Levy said it would be impossible to present any clear-cut definitions of the prospective redeployment and that there was no sense in simply "chewing the fat."

Sharon issued a statement predicting that Israel will carry out the troop pullback required by the Oslo Accords and that Netanyahu would be able to discuss its general outline with Albright without submitting any maps.

Netanyahu left for Paris after securing a cabinet majority against any further IDF redeployment in the West Bank unless the

and Sharon met at length before issuing a joint statement saying that "the prime minister is traveling to Paris to discuss Israel's interests in a permanent accord."

The statement said Netanyahu would take with him a map of the Oslo interim accord "on which he will explain Israel's interests, which are still to be discussed by the cabinet."

There will be no discussion of the percentage of West Bank land to be handed over in a future pullback, the statement said.

See LEVY, Page 2

Playing with political fire

ANALYSIS

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

The precise wording of Sharon's angry outburst at Tuesday's stormy cabinet session, which was aimed directly at Netanyahu, bears serious consideration. It could be his opening shot across the bow of Netanyahu's politically unstable boat: "You know that I always made every effort to safeguard the existence of this government. This was the case until you reached the red line of risk to the national interest. To my regret, you are about to cross this line."

Tugging in the opposite direction is Foreign Minister David Levy. He wants Netanyahu to present a definitive geographical formula for the impending redeployment. If Sharon's rhetoric or the suspected National Religious Party plan to bring down the government by June prevents

Netanyahu from talking *tachlis*, the tenuous alliance with Levy and his Geshet Party may dissipate.

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy is moving into a concurrent confrontation with Netanyahu over his NRP colleagues' fear that the Mordechai map may leave a slew of Jewish settlements outside the IDF's future defensive perimeter and therefore at the mercy of the Palestinian Authority.

In short, the road Netanyahu is compelled to travel is strewn with political mines. His strategy of buying time by hinging redeployment to a genuine war against terrorism by the PA's police and security services may turn out to be a short-term palliative.

The upshot of this may be that Netanyahu either will not get the mandate he needs from his coalition to propose to the Knesset a second IDF redeployment by June, or that the prospective pullback will force him to go back to the polls while continuing to run the country as head of a caretaker government, unable to take momentous decisions.

Survey: US Jews concerned about peace process, security

Pluralism ranks lower on priority list

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Although they have been galvanized by the controversy over pluralism in Israel, American Zionists are far more concerned with the peace process and Israeli security, according to a survey conducted for the Conservative movement, identify the interests of its constituents.

The Americans elected delegates for 145 of the 580 seats for the 33rd Zionist Congress. Celebrating the centenary of Zionism, the congress meets in Jerusalem next week.

Though pluralism was the prime factor in the American campaign,

it did not top American Jews' concerns about Israel, the survey indicated.

The survey was based on a random sample of 200 American Jews, which was drawn from among the 149,000 who had registered for last summer's Zionist elections. It was undertaken to help Mercaz, the Zionist arm of the Conservative movement, identify the interests of its constituents.

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it did not top American Jews' concerns about Israel, the survey indicated.

Respondents were told they were participating in an opinion poll on Israel and asked to indicate which three of eight issues "in Israel were most important for American Jews." The survey identified the issues as: Israeli security; pluralism; conversion problems in Israel; the Israeli government; Palestinian problems; the peace process; the conflict between the religious and secular; and the conflict between Orthodox and non-Orthodox.

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Shas pushes for budget changes

By DAVID HARRIS

Shas will refuse to vote for the 1998 state budget in the Knesset unless the government makes changes in a bill concerning health, child benefits and old-age pensions, according to party MKs Yitzhak Cohen and Nissim Dahan.

The budget may not be able to pass without Shas' support.

The principal proposals of the two MKs are that the chapters of the bill concerning health be voted on separately and that planned cuts to child benefits be omitted.

Treasury officials began a series of meetings Tuesday night with Shas MKs in an attempt to reach a compromise.

"We have no alternative to [cuts in] child benefits," said State Budget Director David Milgrom, who has to ensure that the 1998 budget deficit does not fall foul of the government-approved target of 2.4 percent of the gross domestic product. In order to achieve

this the government has cut the budget by NIS 2.3 billion for next year.

Knesset sources also claimed yesterday that Shas is demanding that its Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai be given joint responsibility for setting the basket of health services.

The opposition yesterday attempted to separate child benefits, healthcare and certain communications items from the rest of the budget.

However, in light of the Shas-Treasury talks, only items concerning cable television news services were removed and were to be discussed separately early next year.

In the coming days Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak will meet MKs from Yisrael Ba'aliya, The Third Way, and Shas in a bid to present a united front against the 1998 state budget, Barak said yesterday.

Last night Yisrael Ba'aliya MKs were scheduled to meet Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman over

demands for better mortgages, but the session was postponed at the last minute.

It is widely believed in the Knesset that for the Treasury to successfully see the budget through it will have to add NIS 1.5b. to the overall package, the equivalent of a 1 percent increase in VAT, a solution being suggested by several MKs.

The final votes on the budget in committee will be on Sunday, before intensive debate begins in the plenum ahead of a final vote on December 31.

Speaking to journalists yesterday, Barak accused the present administration of being "heartless" and "working against the interests of the people."

Israel had enjoyed four years of tremendous growth, he said, particularly in the sphere of foreign investments, but the present government has all but destroyed that progress.

"We'll see the fruits of the cessation in investments under the current government in the coming quarters," he said.

Despite the denial by economists that Israel is in recession, Barak claimed that "what there is in reality is a hard recession."

He also suggested that representatives of the International Monetary Fund, which recently gave the economy a reasonably clean bill of health, "don't look at social issues" and argued that, unlike other countries, "here we need more social sensitivity."



Labour MK Avraham Shohat (right), a former finance minister, heads down a hallway to the Knesset Finance Committee Meeting yesterday alongside MK Michael Kleiner of Likud. (Issac Harari)

GIL

Continued from Page 1

His attorney, Yigal Shapira, said even if the facts in the indictment were true, Gil could not be charged with espionage, because what he did was not to the benefit of anyone.

"An act of espionage has to be to the advantage of one side or another," Shapira said. "But Gil is not being charged of spying for any side; therefore this clause doesn't apply."

Asked about the possibility of a plea bargain, Shapira said, "regarding the espionage charge, not a chance." He pointed out that if a plea bargain is worked out, it will not be on any of the charges released for publication.

"There is a difference in the interpretation between the defense and the prosecution, which will be determined during the trial," said prosecutor Dvora Hen. "We think the facts uphold the charges."

Gil, 63, was arrested a month ago on suspicion of feeding the Mossad for years false information he said he obtained from a high-ranking Syrian official.

According to the charges, Gil was highly respected in the Mossad, and the false information he gave had a significant influence on state security, insofar as it affected Israeli assessments of Syria's military and political intentions. The trial is to resume on December 28.

El Al to choose Airbus or Boeing aircraft by tonight

By HANI SHAPIRO

El Al is to decide today which of two airliners will comprise its new fleet of medium-range planes - the European-built Airbus or the American-built Boeing.

The deal is estimated at some \$200 million for five aircraft, including three of either the Boeing 737-700 or the Airbus 319, with about 110 seats, and two of the larger Boeing 737-300s or Airbus 320s, with up to 150 seats.

According to El Al spokesman Nachman Kleiman, the aircraft chosen will be used for regional flights to Antalya, Istanbul, Cairo, Athens, Cyprus, and Amman. They would also serve for second-evening flights to all the major destinations in Europe, thus freeing larger aircraft for flights to the Far East.

The aircraft of both companies are very similar in concept, size, and interiors, although the Airbus salespeople have argued that theirs is a totally new design, while the Boeing is only a new generation of an older model. But Boeing also talks of its product as a new airplane, with new cockpit

and new wings. The Airbus is marginally wider.

However, all things being equal, the decision would probably be made on the basis of price and time of delivery. As of last night the Airbus bid was slightly lower, but that could change by this evening, when the El Al board is due to make its final decision.

Boeing also has a backlog in production, but the company could well put off other customers in order to push forward the El Al order. One alternative, for Boeing, would be for El Al to lease at least some of the aircraft until its own planes are ready, but this would increase the price of the package.

There is also the question of American government pressure. It would be hard to explain to Israel's closest ally why what is still a state-owned company chose the competition. However, if El Al does give in to Israeli government pressure, it might well demand compensation for doing so, which might come in handy at a time when the company is facing privatization.

Neeman threatened to resign over health budget

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman threatened Tuesday night to resign if Shas successfully removes the health-care chapters from the 1998 budget arrangements bill, according to Labor's chief economics spokesman Avraham Shohat.

Former finance minister Avraham Shohat said yesterday that Neeman made the threat during a conversation with Shas MK Aryeh Deri. Shas is demanding the health section of the budget proposals be discussed and voted on separately, if the government wants the party's support.

Neeman's spokesman declined to comment, and Treasury Director-General Shmuel Slavin said, "I know nothing about this."

Shas MK Yitzhak Cohen also denied knowledge of the conversation, saying Neeman is free of the need to make such political threats as he is not a member of any party.

David Harris



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HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

The price of recession

The recession and the growing unemployment rate received headlines in the Hebrew press this week, referring to the massive protests of jobless citizens in the towns severely hit by unemployment.

"There are no free meals in this game," writes *Ma'ariv's* Moshe Perl. "You cure the inflation disease and slow down the economy and find that 8.1 percent of your work force is unemployed."

He adds that according to the forecasts, the situation will worsen. "The true remedy is obviously the renewal of growth that can occur in a matter of months if the politicians don't tamper with it."

According to *Yediot Aharanot's* Sever Plotzker, the unemployment rate will not decrease next year, due to problems such as political tension, decline in tourism, the severe crisis in Asia, etc. He says the real test facing the prime minister, finance minister and the governor of the Bank of Israel lies in their ability to implement the solution "to increase investments, manufacturing and profits without increasing the government deficit."

"The real answer for recession... lies in retraining workers for hi-tech industries," *Ha'aretz* editorializes, adding that the government should pour money into infrastructure in the Negev.

Danger to democracy

The court pronounced an unprecedented heavy fine on Ace hardware store for opening its doors on Shabbat in yet another debate involving the split between the religious and secular communities.

In his commentary entitled "Theocracy in the power of the law," *Ma'ariv's* Moshe Negbi states that the secular community should not complain against the court that enforced the law, but against the Knesset that passed it years ago. "The law directly damages the freedom of religion,

which is also the freedom from religion," he writes, adding that the verdict exposed "deterioration to theocracy... where heretics are punished for not keeping commandments that apparently stand above the freedom of the citizen and the value of equality."

B. Michael in *Yediot* refers to a recent Shas MK's proposal to create special army units for haredi soldiers, claiming that "if this idea is not buried soon, Israel might find a foreign army within its own army." He adds that entire army units whose loyalty lies in an authority which is above the law "are not only a danger to democracy, but an indication marking its end."

Going El Al

The national airline company has attracted media attention on two issues: El Al's intention to purchase five airplanes, either the American Boeing or the European Airbus and the new deal that the company is offering its customers - a flight to nowhere.

Referring to El-Al's considerations in purchasing the airplanes, *Ma'ariv's* Yosef Lapid says the decision is not only professional but also political. "It is highly unlikely that Israel will receive from the Americans \$3 billion in economic assistance annually and use part of that money to purchase a European plane in competition with the American one."

Ron Miebreg, also in *Ma'ariv*, refers to El Al's offer to catch a few hours' flight in the Middle Eastern skies for a few hundred shekels "the flight to nowhere."

Miebreg warns against the dangers of flying and the absurdity of the suggestion: "it is imperative to clarify how foolish, illogical and frivolous the idea of filling a plane with people is... and loading them with all the risks only to let them fly with no destiny or purpose," he writes, adding that "only government involvement can prohibit El Al from creating an aerial amusement park in Israeli skies."

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Guide

Mbeki takes over as ANC chief

MAFIKENG (Reuters) - Thabo Mbeki, a suave but secretive intellectual, succeeded Nelson Mandela as president of the ruling African National Congress yesterday, taking South Africa on its first step into a new era.

At the same national conference, populist Winnie Madikizela-Mandela declined to try for nomination as his deputy in a race against party favorite Jacob Zuma. Mandela's ex-wife was proposed as a candidate by a follower but, under brand new rules that the ANC denies were aimed at her, would have had to be seconded by a quarter of the 3,064 delegates for her name to go forward.

"To those comrades who nominated my name I apologize for having to decline," said the woman branded a wayward charlatan by party leaders whom she says are promise-breakers to the poor.

Sports Minister Steve Tshwete, a main critic, said her decision was commendable and in the interests of party unity.

Mbeki, who at 55 represents a whole generational change within South Africa's political juggernaut, was nominated unopposed to succeed Mandela, the former political prisoner who led the black majority from apartheid to freedom.

"The message from yourselves to the leadership of the ANC is a very clear one, and that is that the revolution has not been completed," he told delegates who warmly applauded him.

Head of a party that won nearly two-thirds of the vote in the historic all-race elections of 1994, he is virtually certain to become the country's next president after the 1999 poll.

"Thabo Mbeki is already de facto president of the country, I am pushing everything to him," Mandela, 79, said at the weekend.

"My stepping down will be very smooth."

Teheran abuzz with US-ties debate

By BARRY MAY

DUBAI (Reuters) - A vigorous debate over relations with the United States has broken out in Iran and Gulf analysts said there was likely to be an inexcusable push for a dialogue.

"This is what people are talking about," a diplomat in Teheran said by telephone from the Iranian capital yesterday.

Signals between Teheran and Washington have come in rapid succession following President Mohammad Khatami's remarks last week that he hoped for a dialogue between civilizations.

Clinton speech fails to link dialogue to peace process

The comment, delivered as he opened an Islamic summit in Teheran and interpreted as an opening to the United States after 18 years of estrangement between the two former allies, was welcomed in Washington.

Khatami followed up with an explicit overture on Sunday when he said at a Teheran news conference beamed around the world by satellite television that he hoped for "a thoughtful dialogue with the American people" in the near future.

The Shi'ite Muslim clergyman, elected

to the presidency by a landslide last May on a moderate platform, referred more than once to "the great people of the United States."

The latest step in the long-range exchange was a response by US President Bill Clinton at a White House news conference on Tuesday offering an "honest" dialogue with Iran.

Significantly, Clinton did not ask Teheran to drop its opposition to Arab peace accords with the Israelis.

And he spoke of Iran as "a country with

a great history," saying Americans had been greatly enriched by Persian culture.

Clinton, asked about the policy of the United States and its allies, said: "We are all of us discussing how to proceed now. No decision has been made. But I have always said, from the beginning, that I thought it was tragic that the United States was separated from the people of Iran."

Gulf analysts said the Iranian government's reaction to US offers of talks had historically been "deeds not words."

"There will be an inexcusable push for a

dialogue, but without compromising their stands on issues," one analyst said.

"The people on the street feel that these are good signs and they hope that relations will be normalized with the United States as soon as possible," a Teheran resident said.

"They look forward to a lot of Americans coming here and doing business," he said.

"The Americans have this huge market of 60 million people shut out to them," the diplomat said. "There are giant projects in Iran and the Americans are missing out while the Europeans and others reap the benefits."

Dozens freeze to death in European cold snap

LONDON (Reuters) - Ice and snow gripped much of Europe yesterday as the death toll from a vicious cold snap climbed to around 50.

Three people froze to death overnight in Moscow, where temperatures this week have plunged as low as -28.8 Celsius, the coldest mid-December for many decades.

Nine others have died on the capital's streets in recent days and 13 have perished in fires as they tried to heat their apartments. Another man died overnight in Yeysk in the southern region of Krasnodar.

Fifteen people have died from the cold in Poland as temperatures have plummeted to around -20 Celsius.

"The victims are mainly homeless...and those who drank too much alcohol," Warsaw police spokesman Pawel Biedziak said.

Seven frozen corpses were collected from the streets of the Romanian capital on Tuesday.

"We expect the number of dead to rise in the coming days due to the bad weather," said Vladimir Belis, head of Bucharest's Forensic Institute.

Rough seas, low visibility and high winds closed Romanian Black

Sea ports and trapped two US warships taking part in a naval exercise. Power was cut to some 250 villages in the south and east of the country.

Motoring organizations across Europe pleaded with drivers to leave their cars at home to prevent further loss of life from the biting cold and ice. Radio reports described roads in Luxembourg as "veritable skating rinks."

In London, the government was moving homeless youths into one of the capital's grandest buildings, Admiralty Arch on Trafalgar Square.

The 60 youngsters, who normally sleep rough on the streets, will be allowed to stay until March in the former naval headquarters, which enjoys views of Buckingham Palace.

Overnight snowfalls in southern England forced some schools to close and made the morning journey to work a misery for millions.

"It's an absolute nightmare," said a spokesman for the Automobile Association.

In Spain, where two fatal road accidents were blamed on the weather on Tuesday, authorities issued warnings of heavy rain, high winds and possible floods.



Korea goes to the polls

Supporters of South Korean presidential candidate Kim Dae-jung wave campaign signs during a political rally yesterday in Seoul. Six million people - or 20 percent of the 33 million eligible voters - told pollsters they would head for today's polls undecided. (AP)

Bushfire smoke blankets Sydney

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Thick smoke and sizzling blankets Sydney yesterday and firefighters were placed on alert as high temperatures and strong winds fanned bushfires burning in four states across Australia.

A smoke haze descended on Sydney shortly after midday as firefighters battled to control several outbreaks near the Blue Mountains on the city's western outskirts.

Firefighters are preparing for an extremely difficult afternoon in the face of increasing temperatures, strong winds and very low humidity, the New South Wales Rural Fire Service (RFS) said in a statement.

Police said about 20 families had been evacuated from Nattai, 50 kilometers southwest of Sydney, as one of several fires burning in a nearby national park approached the township.

An RFS spokesman said firefighters had been withdrawn from another fire in the Wollondilly area further to the southwest of Nattai to protect the township of Yerranderie.

Eleven fires were burning in New South Wales and had burnt out a million dunams (250,000 acres) of land, the spokesman said. Over 6 million dunams had been burnt out in the past three weeks.

Other fires were burning in the Hawkesbury region immediately north of Sydney and in the Hunter Valley about 130 kms. to the north.

Some fires to Sydney's south, north and northwest have been burning for over two weeks and officials fear a return to conditions at the start of December when over 400 fires burned across Australia's eastern seaboard.

Three firemen died fighting those fires, which destroyed a dozen homes in Sydney and blanketed the city in grey smog.

On the other side of the continent in Western Australia, where two people died and five were seriously injured in huge blazes on Monday, fires were still burning on 270,000 dunams of heavily wooded areas of the state.

Stock losses were also heavy in Western Australia, with over 10,000 sheep burned in fires south of Perth.

"I saw thousands of sheep that were just standing rigid, burnt to a cinder and they were standing on their feet," wheat farmer Colin Mills told reporters on Tuesday.

A spokesman for the Australian Wheat Board said yesterday wheat losses in the Western Australia fires would be insignificant.

Television cartoon illness mystifies Japan

TOKYO (Reuters) - A Japanese television network yesterday called in doctors, psychologists, and animation experts to find out why a cartoon based on the video game "Pocket Monsters" triggered convulsions among hundreds of children nationwide.

TV Tokyo programming division manager Hironari Mori told reporters more than 700 persons, mainly schoolchildren, were rushed to hospitals after watching the program on Tuesday night.

The Home Affairs Ministry said 208 people, aged from three upwards, including a man aged 58, were still in hospital with epilepsy-type symptoms more than 24 hours after the showing.

"We are investigating the cause of the incident using outside experts," Mori said.

The seizures began about 20 minutes into the 30-minute program, which airs on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

The blame was put on a scene depicting an explosion followed by five seconds of flashing red lights from the eyes of the most popular character, "Pikachu," a rat-like creature.

The episode featured characters entering a computer to fight each other. The explosion was set off by a "vaccine bomb" detonated to destroy a computer virus.

Even Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro

Hashimoto was drawn into the national debate, which dominated news headlines through the day.

Commenting on the cartoon's fascination with ray guns and laser beams, Hashimoto said their portrayal should be carefully considered because they were "weapons."

"Their effects [on viewers] have not been fully determined," he said.

Mori said the offending section passed inspection before broadcast, but in hindsight, "We believe there may have been problems with presentation and production technique."

TV Tokyo imposed a health warning on future episodes, telling viewers that watching Tuesday's installment of *Pocket Monsters* could cause fainting and nausea.

"I must say that as an adult that part made me blink so for a child the effect must have been considerable," Mori said.

Other TV networks said they were studying their cartoons to see if they posed a similar risk of *Pocket Monsters* sickness.

The cartoon, shown since April, is the highest-rated program in its time slot. The network plans to cancel next week's show if the cause of the incident remains unclear.

Some local affiliates have already shelved the next episode.

Japan's largest video rental chain, Culture Convenience Club Co. Ltd., announced it was taking *Pocket Monsters* videos off shelves at its 940 stores nationwide.

The Posts and Telecommunications Ministry, which supervises TV stations, announced it also was investigating.

A spokesman for Nintendo, whose shares lost about 2 percent, said the characters were the only link between its game and the cartoon. He also pointed out the game is only in black and white, not color.

The game has been a huge success, selling seven million units since it was released in Japan in February 1996. The game is scheduled to be released in the rest of the world next year.

Doctors said children went into a trance-like state, similar to hypnosis, complaining of shortness of breath, nausea, and bad vision when the rat-like creature's eyes flashed.

Other children were stricken when they watched TV replays of the offending scene in news reports on the earlier victims.

Dr. Yukio Fukuyama, an expert on juvenile epilepsy, said bright flashes of light and color from a television screen could trigger a phenomenon known as "television epilepsy."

Doctors have known that children are susceptible to such seizures since even before the dawn of television, but it has become more evident with the spread of TV, Fukuyama said.

He said the seizures, albeit unpleasant, are not dangerous and that spontaneous recovery is the norm.

But parents should be aware of possible side effects of watching programs featuring bright flashing lights.

"The networks should definitely think of issuing a health warning beforehand," Fukuyama said.

Psychologist Rika Kayama said the phenomenon appeared to be an epileptic effect induced by flashing light, known as photosensitive epilepsy or group hysterics.

"The children must have been totally immersed in the program," said Kayama, author of a book on video games.

Doctors at the University of Tokyo Hospital, where four children were hospitalized, said patients seemed to have been affected by glaring light that stimulated their nerve cells.

One child did not remember watching the cartoon.

Mori said the network is considering compensation for the families.

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And Esau was a cunning hunter

THE BIBLE AS IT WAS by James Kugel. Cambridge, Mass., The Belnap Press of Harvard University. 680 pp. \$35.

By Haim Chertok

James Kugel, who divides his professional life between Bar Ilan and Harvard, has a disconcerting habit rare in an academic of such erudition: he consistently produces scholarship of distinction which laymen find of considerable interest. Best known for *The Idea of Biblical Poetry* (1981), Kugel struck a more popular chord a decade later with *On Being a Jew*. He now checks in with *The Bible As It Was*, a highly original Bible companion which, especially for readers accustomed to relying in the first instance upon medieval Jewish commentators to resolve ambiguities or dissolve textual cruxes, should be an eye opener, if not invaluable.

Noting that the Bible underwent interpretation virtually from the very start, Kugel reminds how often later books comment upon, thereby modifying, the books of earlier ones. The Book of Daniel, for example, reinterprets a reference to 430 years in Jerusalem to 490 years (Daniel 9:2, 4). Biblical interpretation and understanding may in short, both organic and composite in nature, so much so that later expositors themselves could not be fully aware of the extent to which they depended upon a matrix of overlapping contemporary.

Kugel makes readily accessible a great mass of ancient biblical interpretation issuing from scores of sources, all of which he seems to have mastered. Organizing these readings by pre-judicial exegeses as a running commentary to the first five books of the Bible, Kugel commands attention to this initial, highly diversified, but often neglected layer of grappling with biblical texts. Unlike many contemporary expositors, medieval exegetes would have shared fundamental assumptions with those who wrote a millennium or more earlier: 1) the Bible is of its nature a cryptic record, one that requires elucidation; 2) the Bible is relevant, a manual of instruction for the benefit of mankind; 3) notwithstanding seeming inconsistency, the biblical account is harmonious; 4) it is of divine provenance.

Since I am writing this review during the week of Toledot (Genesis 25-28), how better to illustrate the utility of this volume than to note how it amplifies or contravenes the more familiar interpretations of classical expositors. Genesis

25:27 reads: "And the boys grew and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents," to which Rashi appends: "When they were small, there was no marked difference between them; but when they reached thirteen... Jacob visited the house of study, Esau the idola-bus temples." On this verse Kugel refers us to a variant reading from The Book of Jubilees, a pseudographic retelling of Genesis dating from the 2nd century BCE: "And the youths grew, and Jacob learned to write; but Esau did not learn, for he was a man of the field, and a hunter, and he learned war, and all his deeds were fierce. And Abraham loved Jacob, but Isaac loved Esau." Emphasis has shifted from Esau's "cunning" to his "fierce-ness." Compared to Jubilees, Rashi's "idolatrious temples" suggests a touch of anachronistic pleading. As for the startling emendation that substitutes Abraham for Rebekkah, Kugel delicately conjectures that its intent was to render Isaac's love for Esau a "sort of consolation prize" to compensate for the favor bestowed upon the younger twin by his saintly grandfather. It certainly casts a different light on the narrative.

And where did Jacob pursue his studies? Whereas Sforno suggests "the tent of mediation, where he learnt to know his Maker," Rashi indicates the notoriously much-discussed "schools of Shem and Eber," a conceit consonant with one Kugel resurrects from the 1st century CE.

Targum Neophyti: "And Jacob was a man perfect in good work, dwelling in schoolhouses." His curriculum was specified in the 3rd century CE Sifrei Deuteronomy which refers to "the righteous Jacob who observed the entire Torah," to which Kugel adds "the fact that Jacob 'dwelt in tents' that is, frequented the schoolhouse, was what allowed him 'to observe the entire Torah' since the Torah was the normal schoolhouse curriculum."

A further exemplary passage: Esau's sale of his birthright. Both Rashbam and Sforno hold that rather than the actual price of the birthright, the mess of pottage was merely a symbolic ratifica-

tion of the transaction, a view expressly rejected by Nachmanides. The New Testament Letter to the Hebrews adopts the latter approach: "...that no one be immortal or irreligious like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal." More in accord with the former commentators, however, is a passage from the *Commentary on Genesis* by Ephraim Syrus, a 4th Century CE Christian source: "...after he ate, Esau got up and left and [still] despised his birthright." He did not sell it because of hunger, therefore, but because he indeed considered it to be worthless and sold it for nothing." Far more remarkable is a homiletic interpretation of Philo's cited by Kugel: "The literal meaning shows the greed of the younger in wishing to deprive his elder brother of his rights. But the virtuous man is not greedy... [He] understands that a continuous and unlimited abundance of possessions will provide the wicked man with the occasion for, and the cause of, sin.... He considers it most necessary to remove [Esau] from evil.... And this does no harm, but is a great benefit to him." Strained, to be sure, but what a brilliant apologia for Jacob's divinely sanctioned scam.

As for my fellow students in the tents of Shem and Eber, whose bookshelves even now strain under the weight of many volumes which, alas, rarely get fetched, I can virtually guarantee *The Bible As It Was* is one possession which will provide the occasion for great and long-lasting enrichment and benefit.



Cover art from 'The Bible As It Was' by James L. Kugel

Recalling the horror of Nanking

By Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan

Through three generations, the tale was passed down. From father to daughter, to daughter again.

Of how Japanese soldiers plundered the city of Nanking in December 1937, killing and torturing more than 300,000 people in less than eight weeks.

Of how they stormed the streets, killing for sport, slashing people into pieces, raping thousands of women and young girls and then mutilating their bodies.

Of how the Yangtze River that snakes past the city literally ran red with blood.

And now, 29-year-old Iris Chang has woven her grandfather's tales of the Nanking massacre into the first English-language book on the topic: *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II*.

Tediously researched, it is a stomach-turning, tear-wrenching, thoroughly riveting book - which is exactly what Chang hoped to achieve.

"I feel that I'm fulfilling my family's legacy," Chang said before a recent book signing. "With this book, I can preserve their stories. It's ensuring that they live on." Her book looks beyond the atrocities in Nanking - the former capital of China now known as Nanjing - into the psyche of the Japanese who allowed the massacre to occur, the Europeans and Americans who tried to save the Chinese, and the Japanese denial of the events ever since.

It also includes information from the diary of a German who lived in Nanking at the time, information never before released. John Rabe, whom Chang calls the "Oskar Schindler of China," was a German businessman and leader of the Nazi Party in Nanking when the Japanese invaded. Rabe led a group of Europeans and Americans in establishing a "Safety Zone," which Chang credits with saving almost 300,000 Chinese.

Frederic Wakeman, director of the University of California at

Berkeley's Institute of East Asian Studies, said Rabe's diary sets Chang's book apart from anything that's been written about the massacre in the past.

"His chronicle is absolutely riveting," Wakeman said. "Think about it, here's a Nazi writing about this and even he was shocked. It's one of the most bestial acts of human history."

A journalism graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and 1991 graduate of the Johns Hopkins University's writing seminars program, Chang is also the author of *Witness to the Silk Road*, the story of the father of China's missile program. She says she decided to write about Nanking because it had been threaded into her psyche since she was a child.

Chang grew up in the university town of Urbana, and her professor parents first told her about the massacre when she was in grade school. Sitting around the dinner table laden with stir-fried vegetables, chicken and rice, her mother, Ying-Ying Chang, would spin tales her father had told her. Especially the one of her own parents' narrow escape, which Chang details in her book.

Chang's maternal grandfather, Chang Tien-Chun, was a poet, journalist and Chinese government official in Nanking. A few weeks before the massacre, he left their family home in a village just outside Nanking to go into the city. When Chinese officials began evacuating the city, he sent word for his wife to meet him at Wuhu, a town on the banks of the Yangtze River, where they could sail to safety. As the Japanese had bombed the railroads, the only means of transport was by water. Chang's mother and father fled by boat meandering through a small waterway.

After four long days, boatload after boatload of refugees arrived, but Chang's wife still had not shown up. As the final boat was preparing to leave Wuhu, he screamed his wife's name, "Yi-Pei!" in despair. In the distance, from the last tiny boat approaching

the docks, an answer came. Chang's grandmother had barely made it.

"In that context," Chang says, "it's a miracle I'm alive."

Her mother's tales, told with a quiet voice and quivering anger, instilled in her a deep curiosity to research and report all she could about Nanking.

"I want the rape of Nanking to penetrate the public consciousness," says Chang. "Unless we truly understand how these atrocities can happen, we can't be certain that it won't happen again." One of the first in line at a recent book signing was Dimon Liu, who said her parents also had survived the massacre.

"It's long overdue," said Liu, an independent policy-writer in Washington. "I want the Japanese to remember what they've done. I want their younger generations to remember the shame of their forefathers."

Japan's acknowledgment of the terrible events of 1937 have long been a point of contention between China and Japan. Hidehisa Hironouchi, a spokesman for the Embassy of Japan, declined to comment specifically about the book, but said Japanese leaders have acknowledged their atrocities in Nanking.

"We want to face the past history squarely without avoiding the truth," he said.

For her part, Chang says she had no choice but to do just that in writing her book.

"I lost a lot of weight and hair researching the book," she says.

"I couldn't leave [the victims' stories] behind and I had a hard time sleeping at night. There were times when I'd start shaking all over and I felt this tremendous pain inside me." Which is why Ying-Ying Chang has told her daughter to pick a "light topic" for her next book.

"You don't want to dwell on this for so long," her mother said. "I'm very concerned for her health, but I'm so proud of her." (The Baltimore Sun)

THE SWORD AND THE MIRACLE by Melvyn Bragg. New York, Random House. 541 pp. \$29.5.

By Mary K. Feeley

For anyone interested in medieval Britain and Ireland, Melvyn Bragg's new book is truly an illuminated manuscript.

His story of a young girl named Bega, blessed with the ability to perform miracles, and of a British warrior prince whose love for her is unrequited, will satisfy any student of early British and Irish history.

The Sword and the Miracle is historical fiction set in the seventh century. Though it contains scenes of lust, rape and violence, it is no bodice-ripper. The book, which rose to the top of British bestseller lists, is as much about culture and

Ecfrieth, Oswy and Bega

homeland from the savage Northumbrian lords. Her love for Padric, however, is overshadowed by faith. When O'Neill savagely rapes one of Bega's handmaidens, Bega escapes to a nunnery, leaving Padric to defend his country. The book recounts Bega's growing legend, as her spiritual powers extend to miracles such as ending a frightening solar eclipse, and the desperation of her people during four plagues and continuing invasions from the north. Padric and his brothers, meanwhile, find themselves in the midst of a brutal war ignited when an English king, Oswy, forms a pact

with the Roman pope to annihilate the Celtic Christians and seize their holdings. Later, he must subdue Oswy's ruthless son, King Ecfrieth, whose torture and killing spree across Ireland is brutal even by the standards of the times.

Bragg is the star of "The South Bank Show," a program of arts interviews. A native of Britain's Lake Country, Bragg drew his inspiration for *The Sword and the Miracle* from a small church dedicated to St. Bega in Cumbria, near his hometown.

Some characters in the book, including the warlike Prince Ecfrieth and the Irish O'Neill clan, are taken from history. Others,

such as the hero Padric, are fictitious; scholars differ on whether the heroine, Bega, was a legend.

Details are what makes this book so memorable. Bragg has the unusual ability to reach back and describe scenes, from battles to banquets, with a natural, unostentatious voice. His description of medieval horsemanship is just one example: "All the men had only one hand on the reins, some of which jangled as the wind lifted and ruffled the small discs of ornamental metal sewn onto them. There was no saddle, just a blanket, no stirrups; the control came through forearms and thighs." *Sword*, dense with detail and packed with plot, may not be for everyone, but its intelligent recreation of the era has certain appeal for history lovers.

STEIMATZKY'S BESTSELLING PAPERBACKS

1. *The Partner* by John Grisham, Dell, Arrow.
2. *Beyond Recall* by Robert Goddard, Corbis.
3. *Power Plays: Politics* by Tom Clancy and Martin Greenberg, Penguin, Berkeley.
4. *Emotional Intelligence* by Daniel Goleman, Bantam.
5. *Tycoon* by Harold Robbins, Pocket.
6. *Lying on the Couch* by Irvin D. Yalom, Harper Perennial.
7. *SSN* by Tom Clancy, HarperCollins.
8. *Bible Code* by Michael Drosnin, Simon & Schuster.
9. *Emotional Intelligence* by Daniel Goleman, Bantam.
10. *McNally's Gamble* by Lawrence Sanders, Coronet, Berkeley.
11. *No Regrets* by Elizabeth Adler, Coronet.

BOOK BYTES

Arthur Hailey, author of block-busting novels like *Airport* and *Hotel*, officially retired in 1990. With 160 million books in print in 39 languages, British-born Hailey was looking for the quiet life with his wife Shefa in their home at Lyford Cote in the Bahamas.

It was not to be. In the wake of unfortunate family circumstances, the author took solace in a new book. "All I could do was turn to my word processor and work, work," he said. Hailey's lawyer and best friend, Bruce Verchère, ran off with Hailey's youngest daughter, Diane. After getting Diane pregnant with twins, Verchère returned to his wife and committed suicide. At first the whole affair threatened to rip apart the generations, but the senior Haileys soon "fell in love" with their grandchildren, a boy and a girl.

And as a consequence of the trauma, Hailey completed *Detective* (Doubleday), the novel he never meant to write. The book is loosely built around the life of Steve Vinson, a Miami-based homicide detective. Vinson, who since died, retired early because of a bad heart, and went to live in the Bahamas, where he became a neighbor and friend of the Haileys. He supplied much of the background and information on police work in Hailey's book, maybe his last.

writing when she and her husband, a teacher, moved to Madrid. Feeling lonely, she created amateur sleuth Sophie Fitt in her first novel, *A Temporary Affair* (Hamish Hamilton). A second Fitt novel followed as well as the option of a TV series. Changing tracks again, she has now come out with a contemporary women's novel, *More Innocent Times* (Corgi). As for her own representative, Parker left her former company for another. "I thought I needed to find someone who saw me not as an ex-agent but as a writer."

THE STORY of British mystery-thriller writer Emyln Rees, 26, puts a different spin on the writer-agent theme. Rees graduated in English from university and wrote a "semi-autobiographical, non-plot novel." For his trouble he collected a pile of rejection letters. Rees then joined the Curtis Brown literary agency as an assistant, and wrote a second novel in the thriller genre. Taking a pen name and using a friend's address, he cheekily sent the manuscript to his own office. He was asked to read his own book and give an opinion. "So I read a chapter and said, yeah, it's worth having a look at." *The Book of Dead Authors* (Headline Review) was published in August, and Rees has a contract for a second book. By the way, he kept his day job, and writes every night until 2 a.m.

EYSTEINN BJORNSSON came across a curious title, *Research Symposium on the Male Adolescent Voice* (State University of New York, Buffalo) lurking on the shelves of the University Bookstore in Reykjavik, Iceland. He writes, "I wonder if there was an accompanying cassette." David Brauner

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier, (Atlantic Monthly \$24.) A Confederate soldier journeys home to meet an old love.
2. *Cat & Mouse* by James Patterson, (Little, Brown \$24.95.) Alex Cross versus two serial killers.
3. *The Ghost* by Danielle Steel, (Delacorte \$25.95.) On a trip to New England, a man finds answers to his problems in an old trunk.
4. *Another City, Not My Own* by Dominick Dunne, (Crown \$25.) The O.J. Simpson murder trial as witnessed by a journalist.
5. *The Letter* by Richard Paul Evans, (Simon & Schuster \$15.95.) In the last volume of the "Christmas Box" trilogy, the Parker family recovers from the loss of a daughter.
6. *A Certain Justice* by P.D. James, (Knopf \$25.) Adam Dalglish in pursuit of the murderer of a celebrated and widely detested criminal lawyer.
7. *Survival of the Fittest* by Jonathan Kellerman, (Bantam \$24.95.) Alex Delaware pursues the killer of a diplomat's teenage daughter.
8. *Comanche Moon* by Larry McMurtry, (Simon & Schuster \$28.50.) Texas rangers, veterans of "Lonesome Dove," battle defiant Comanches determined to defend their way of life.
9. *Wobegon Boy* by Garrison Keillor, (Viking \$24.95.) After moving to New York, the manager of a radio station comes to terms with his Minnesota heritage.
10. *The Winner* by David Baldacci, (Warner \$25.) The hijackings of a cat-poor woman who reluctantly participates in a scam to win the national lottery.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt, (Random House \$23.) The mysterious death of a young man in Savannah, Ga.
2. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt, (Scribner \$24.) An Irish-American recalls his childhood amid the miseries of Limerick.
3. *The Man Who Listens to Horses* by Monty Roberts, (Random House \$23.) The memoirs of a horse trainer.
4. *The Dark Side of Camelot* by Seymour M. Hersh, (Little, Brown \$26.95.) A journalist's reappraisal of the private and public life of John F. Kennedy.
5. *Citizen Soldiers* by Stephen E. Ambrose, (Simon & Schuster \$27.50.) The US Army from Normandy to the Bulge to Germany's surrender.
6. *The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger, (Houghton \$23.95.) An account of the no-horror of 1991.
7. *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer, (Villard \$24.95.) An account of the ascent of Mount Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
8. *Dirty Jones and Beer* by Drew Carey, (Hyperion \$22.95.) Observations on his life and life in general by the comedian.
9. *Diana: Her True Story* - In Her Own Words by Andrew Morton, (Simon & Schuster \$22.95.) The 1992 bestseller, updated and expanded.
10. *Sources of Strength* by Jimmy Carter, (Times Books/Random House \$23.) Inspirational meditations on the Bible by the former president.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. *Tom Clancy's Power Plays: Politics* created by Tom Clancy and Martin Greenberg, (Berkeley \$7.50.) In 1998, an American contends with terrorists threatening his business in Russia.
2. *Wizard and Glass* by Stephen King, (Plume \$17.95.) Volume 4 of *The Dark Tower*, a series about time and a heroic past.
3. *Petals on the River* by Kathleen E. Woodiwiss, (Avon \$12.50.) An upper-class Englishwoman, forced into indentured servitude, finds love with a widower in 18th-century Virginia.
4. *Total Control* by David Baldacci, (Warner Vision \$7.50.) A woman's efforts to find her husband reveals the ways of big business.
5. *Sole Survivor* by Dean Koontz, (Ballantine \$7.99.) A reporter searches for a woman who claims to know a secret about the plane crash that killed his family.
6. *The List* by Steve Martin, (Love \$7.50.) A writer's scheme to get her novel on the bestseller list leads to murder and endangers her own life.
7. *Airframe* by Michael Crichton, (Ballantine \$7.99.) A young woman probes a plane's near disaster on its way from Hong Kong to Denver.
8. *"M" is for Malice* by Sue Grafton, (Fawcett \$7.99.) Murder results when sons in line to inherit a fortune seek their long-missing black-sheep brother.
9. *A Virtuous Woman* by Kye Gibbons, (Vintage \$10.) The daughter of Carolina gentry finds love with a tenant farmer.
10. *Say You Love Me* by Johanna Lindsey, (Avon \$6.99.) In Regency England, a penniless orphan finds love after being hired as a maid.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen E. Ambrose, (Touchstone/S&S \$16.) The story of how Thomas Jefferson sponsored Lewis and Clark.
2. *Under the Tuscan Sun* by Frances Mayes, (Broadway \$13.) A celebration of the Italian countryside by a poet.
3. *The Color of Water* by James McBride, (Riverhead \$12.) A black writer and musician recalls growing up with his white mother in Brooklyn.
4. *A Civil Action* by Jonathan Harr, (Vintage \$13.) Homeholders sue industrial polluters.
5. *Underboos* by Peter Mass, (Harper Paperbacks \$5.99.) Life in the Mafia as lived by Salvatore (Sammy the Bull) Gravano.
6. *Girlfriends* by Carmen Renee Berry and Tamara Tinsler, (Wildcat Canyon \$12.95.) The ties that bind women of all ages.
7. *Hanson* by Jill Matthews, (Anchor/Pocket \$3.99.) The story of the pop-rock group.
8. *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer, (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95.) A young man's obsession with the wilderness ends tragically in Alaska.
9. *Seven Years in Tibet* by Heinrich Harrer, (Parcher/Putnam \$13.95.) An Austrian mountaineer recounts his adventures in the 1940s.
10. *A Child Called "It"* by Dave Pelzer, (Health Communications \$9.95.) The autobiography of a man who survived his mother's abuse.

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff - and It's All Small Stuff* by Richard Carlson, (Hyperion \$8.95.) How to enjoy life much more and contribute to the world we live in.
2. *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul* compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, and Kimberly Kibberger, (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspiration.
3. *Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul* compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Jennifer Read Hawthorne, and Marni Shimoff, (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspiration.
4. *The World Almanac and Book of Facts 1998*, (World Almanac/K-III Reference \$9.95.) The 130th annual edition.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. *Joy of Cooking* by Irma S. Rombauer, Marion Rombauer Becker, and Ethan Becker, (Scribner \$30.) Revision of the book first published in 1931.
2. *Simple Abundance* by Sarah Ban Breathnach, (Warner \$17.95.) Advice for women seeking to improve the way they look at themselves.
3. *Making Faces* by Kevin Aucoin, (Little, Brown \$25.95.) Counsel about cosmetics from a makeup artist.
4. *Make the Connection* by Bob Greene and Oprah Winfrey, (Hyperion \$18.95.) Ways to improve one's life physically and mentally.

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'Buy American'

Every once in a while, a company is faced with a decision that rises to the level of diplomatic significance. This is a delicate matter when that company is El Al, because it cannot afford to make major decisions that are contrary to its commercial interest. In the case of the choice El Al is making today between Boeing and Airbus, it is appropriate that diplomatic considerations be allowed to tip a balanced scale in Boeing's favor.

Few purchases in the civilian sphere carry as much symbolic significance as that of aircraft for the national airline. In 1979, Israel made a major choice in favor of Boeing aircraft, which dominated El Al's fleet today. At the time, the government reportedly weighed in on behalf of Boeing, despite an internal El Al recommendation to go with the European Airbus consortium. Whatever the merits of the case were at the time, all observers agree that the commercial aircraft El Al is considering today are very closely matched in capabilities, comfort, and price.

On strictly commercial grounds, the professionals involved have said it's not easy to sort out which airplane has the edge. Even the seemingly straightforward question of the reported \$200 million cost is not simple, in that long-term operating costs must be taken into account when considering the price.

The Airbus price tag is reportedly lower, for example, while Boeing argues that it has the edge in maintenance costs.

Moreover, it is hard to measure the cost in training, equipment, and resupplying of parts entailed in switching over from the familiar American product to an unfamiliar European one. Airbus would have to be a considerably better buy to justify such a headache.

As to which company represents the cutting edge in the aircraft market, it is Boeing, not Airbus, that looks like the wave of the future. In 1995, Boeing captured two-thirds of the aircraft market, up from the 60 percent market share that it traditionally held. Given the growing market for commercial aircraft, Airbus is expected to thrive even if it does not improve its 30 percent market share, but Boeing is still clearly the industry leader.

Even more important than Boeing's global position is the fact that the company is already doing about \$300 million in business with Israel's aircraft and defense industries, not including its long

relationship with El Al. As part of the potential deal, Airbus is pledging that it would try to increase its purchasing from Israel, but such a promise can hardly be compared with Boeing's existing track record.

Looking at the governments behind the two players, one sees there is even less of a contest. The United States is Israel's closest ally, in fact an ally whose steadfastness and importance is probably greater than all others combined. The American Congress annually approves \$3 billion in aid to Israel, not to mention scores of millions of dollars in funding for the Arrow ballistic missile defense program, and other defense cooperation projects critical to Israel's security. Perhaps it was due to his keen understanding of the US as Israel's security partner that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai weighed in to express strong support for the Boeing deal.

France, where Airbus is headquartered and the dominant element of the four-nation consortium, is opposing US foreign policy left and right—and in ways that directly jeopardize Israel's interests. France has joined with Russia and China to form the lobby in the UN Security Council for lifting international sanctions against Iraq, even though it is clear that the mission of destroying Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction is far from complete. French companies are participating in a prospective \$2 billion deal with Iran, while proudly admitting that it violates American sanctions against Iran for supporting terrorism. And France is the most regular European proponent of the Arab line with regard to the Middle East peace process.

Friendship is a two-way street, and Israel should be looking for ways to favor the United States when commercial considerations are essentially balanced. Moreover, why would Israel want to poke a finger in the Americans' eyes precisely at a time when relations are strained?

The favoring of an American company is not only a matter of gratitude and basic national interest, but something Israel committed itself to as part of the \$10 billion loan guarantees the US provided at the height of the Russian immigration; namely, to make extra effort to "buy American" when presented with such a choice. Israel has long said it would try to rectify the fact that only 20 percent of Israel's imports come from the US, compared to 30 percent from Europe. Choosing Boeing would be a good start.



Mapping the problem

It was in the Elysee Palace on Saturday night almost two weeks ago that French President Jacques Chirac abruptly brought out the whip to fiercely chastise Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Gone was the sophisticated image of a fair-minded man of nobility who, the day before, publicly reiterated his condemnation of the Vichy regime for collaborating with the Germans in sending Jews to the Nazi death camps.

Instead, Chirac's guest was scathingly flayed for failing to make major concessions to the Palestinians and was lectured like a wayward pupil at the hands of a pompous Victorian headmaster. In essence Chirac said: "You cannot depend on defensive military barriers to guarantee peace for your citizens. Look what happened to France when our so-called indestructible Maginot line failed to stop the Nazis sweeping westwards in the Second World War."

This arrogant Elysee lecture came as a dramatic turnabout to the genial reception Netanyahu received 48 hours earlier in Bonn, when he was welcomed with warmth by a smiling Chancellor Helmut Kohl. There was a sense of relief in Israeli ranks when Kohl promised to prevent Paris from manipulating the full European community to compel Jerusalem to make "meaningful withdrawals from Palestinian territory."

"You see," was the drift of Chirac's outburst, "Germany and France were once enemies fighting on the battlefield. Now we are good friends. This is the only way to bring about peace and security. There is no need for Maginot-style defensive barriers. They don't work anyway."

The pearls of wisdom would have sounded just a little more convincing had they not come from a man who in the 1970s saw Saddam Hussein as the Middle East's golden boy.

To his credit, Netanyahu stood up to Chirac's verbal onslaught. He made it clear that he read the Maginot-line fiasco differently. France, with weak leadership and an inept military high command did not have the faintest idea of how to use their Maginot defenses to defend their homeland. It was conquered not so much by German tanks but by a

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

ruthless, determined Nazi ideology. If French generals were professionally adept and motivated by patriotic pride, the Maginot line would have been powerful enough to have held out. After all some of it was as wide as the whole of Israel.

Maintaining his dignity, the

Can today's senior officers be trusted with knowing how to defend Israel at all?

premier then explained that Jews needed viable security zones to defend themselves, so as not to be put in the position of victims as happened in France and elsewhere during the Second World War. Particularly, when the Jewish state faces the ideology of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other fundamentalist Moslem movements.

Netanyahu might have pointed out, Chirac had said, "peaceful Germany, peaceful Spain, peaceful Britain and peaceful everybody else in peaceful western Europe, all have powerful armies, air forces and navies. You can only guarantee such peace if potential foes are aware that aggression will be faced head on."

He did in fact explain how important it was for tiny Israel to ensure that its vulnerable borders are protected by security zones so as to give its military forces time to resist sudden Arab aggression, as happened so often in the past.

Not only do the defense forces need the Jordan valley to deter a military attack, but also its inland mountain slopes which dominate that valley. This is the thrust behind Ariel Sharon's map, based on traditional military planning. Without such protection, no defense there is possible.

Sharon also proposes a meaningful protective zone between the Palestinian-controlled West Bank area and Israel's original green line which embraces all Israeli settlements.

WHICH brings us to the minimal map of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, as reduced by his top brass. In essence, it is the same map drawn up for Yitzhak Rabin by himself—same dutiful, deeply politicized officers. Not only is the Rabin-Mordechai concept of a Jordan valley "defensive zone" narrower than Sharon's, but it is fatally flawed as it neglects the key protective mountain slope. Its internal zone is narrower to the result is that some 45 settlements will be excluded from the Israeli-controlled zones and left to the tender mercies of Yasser Arafat's hostile, well-armed military formations.

The question must be asked: "Can today's senior officers, bowing to the political ambitions of Mordechai, as they did before the dictates of Rabin, be trusted with knowing how to defend Israel at all?"

With around 1,000 tanks at their command, they took an unconscionable time to cut the key Damascus-Beirut road in the 1982 Lebanon War, a vital object of that campaign. Nor have they found to this day any solution to terror in Lebanon after accepting an inadequate defensive zone there.

These are the same officers, or those of a similarly politically indoctrinated mind-set, who never evolved a method of bringing the intifada to a quick close. And were inept enough to lose so many soldiers' lives unnecessarily when the Jerusalem tunnel furor erupted last year.

Are these officers ready to assure us that they can defend the miniature security zones they have produced with such blind obedience to enable Mordechai, backed so fervently by that military genius, field-marshal David Levy, to look good in the eyes of the United States?

When Netanyahu later today meets US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Paris, we hope and pray that he will recall aptly and firmly stand by the bold riposte he made to Chirac: Israel's very survival depends on employing safe security defensive zones, as outlined by the professionally conceived Sharon map.

The writers are Jerusalem Post columnists.

'Correct economics'

LARRY DERFNER

No one would accuse the Netanyahu government of being politically correct. But it is as economically correct as it could possibly be.

Prime Minister Netanyahu and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, together with Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, are doing exactly what contemporary economic orthodoxy says they should do: They've cut government spending. They've brought down inflation. Aside from this, Netanyahu has truly made good on his most heartfelt economic promise: He's been privatizing state-owned companies with a vengeance.

Now laymen like you and I might look around and say all this doesn't seem to be working. They're rioting in Ofakim. The economy is officially slipping from slowdown into recession. The businessmen are furious. Unemployment and poverty are going from very bad to even worse.

But you see, we just don't understand. We don't believe. Things have to get better, because Netanyahu, Neeman and Frenkel aren't operating according to a mere theory or opinion. They're not practicing Thatcherism or Reaganomics or trickle-down economics. They have a different name for it. They call it "correct economics." It's scientific. It's proven. It's the truth. This is a religion with these guys. They're the flip-side of Marcus.

ACCORDING to their religion, inflation is the worst of all economic evils. It eats away at the economy, and any tight-fisted measure—cutting aid to the poor, cutting spending on health care and education, cutting incentives for businesses to open up in developing towns, raising the cost of borrowing money until people learn the value of a shekel—anything is justified to hold inflation down. The consequences aren't important, because they're only temporary. In time, everything will work out for the best.

In economics, whatever falls, falls hardest on the poor

Don't think for a minute that the beliefs in correct economics lack a social conscience. On the contrary, they point out that inflation falls hardest on the poor. And of course they're right—in economics, whatever falls, falls hardest on the poor.

I just think that unemployment falls even harder on the poor. It falls hardest of all on the unemployed. I'm not a fan of inflation, but it seems a more equitable way of spreading the burden than unemployment.

Ask somebody who's worried about losing his job if he'd rather pay a little more for cucumbers or wake up every morning with no place to go. Ask somebody who's lost his job if he's better off now than he was in 1944 or 1985, when inflation got up to over 300 percent.

It wasn't the bag of times, but Israelis got through alright. What would a comparable alarming rate of unemployment do? Twenty percent? Twenty-five percent?

I'd like to see Israelis get through that.

BUT I guess I don't understand. The economically correct will be happy to correct me, and anyone else. Their doctrine goes like this: Once inflation is beaten once all this wasteful government spending is finished, once we adopt prudence as our supreme virtue, then everyone will get well. Blessings will come trickling down to the lowest of us. All boats, even the tiny and battered, will be raised up to the skies. It's fazed.

Netanyahu, Neeman and Frenkel have missed one little detail: Their doctrine has failed. It's failing here, it failed where it started—in the US and England—and it's being rejected by voters wherever it was tried.

Correct economics helped put millions of people on the streets of America, and helped turn the American middle-class into forced workaholics panicked over the possibility of losing their jobs and joining the homeless.

Correct economics helped club the British working-class into senselessness, breeding a generation that has never worked and probably never will.

I never heard of inflation turning half of a country into an economic wasteland, but that's what unemployment did to the north of England, and that's what it's done to the Negev.

The winds of change are just a little late, getting to Israel. We haven't noticed that correct economics is flying close on the heels of communism, straight for the dustbin of history.

It might be prudent to help the folks in Ofakim get off before it lands.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DIRECT OBLIGATION

Sir,—No manager of any organization can conceivably achieve his targets unless he has effective control of a majority of its board of directors. In the absence of such control, he is compelled to please enough board members in order to achieve whatever he considers the immediate goals.

There is no doubt that the prime minister is, in effect, the managing director of his government.

In our present electoral system the chances of a prime minister having a definite majority are, to say the least, very limited. More so, since each of the various members of the Knesset (and ministers) justifiably sees that his position and strength depends on his party and not directly on the electorate. Since we nearly always have multi-party governments, due to our electoral system, the position of our prime

minister, is, to say the least, a very difficult and often unsure one.

There have been a number of unsuccessful efforts to change our electoral system and, consequently, our prime ministers have an unduly difficult time and quite often do not even try, and certainly do not succeed, in achieving all of their goals.

Hence, irrespective of one's political views, one must feel concern for the problems of our prime ministers, and more so for the fact that in consequence our country suffers unduly.

Let us try to change our electoral system so as to achieve a position in which each elected member of the Knesset feels a direct, personal obligation and responsibility vis-à-vis his electors, not to his party.

PAUL KOLLEK
 Jerusalem.

ROSENBLUM'S PRETENSE

Sir,—At last Jonathan Rosenblum has come out of the closet. For the longest time he has tried to give the impression of sweet reasonableness in his anti-Reform/Conservative articles; playing the good Orthodox Jew in his good cop/bad cop routine.

With his article "A question of tactics" (December 12), he now joins his other Orthodox colleagues in blaming the non-Orthodox for all of Israel's ills, including the US turning against

Israel. Tomorrow, I'm sure we'll read a Rosenblum article on why Reform and Conservative Jews are responsible for cancer (not in any metaphorical sense), car accidents, and the poor quality of fruits and vegetables at our local supermarket.

At least I am thankful he's dropped his pretense of being logical and moderate.

JOSEPH L. ROMANELLI
 Jerusalem.

ARAFAT'S SPEECH

Sir,—In his speech to the Islamic summit in Teheran, Yasser Arafat declared that peace will not be reached without "occupied Jerusalem being returned to its legitimate owners as capital of an independent Palestinian state."

Since Israel will never agree to rededicate Jerusalem, it should be obvious—even disregarding all other disagreements between Israel and PA—that the so-called "peace process" is at a dead end. What is going on now between Israel and PA is a dialogue of the deaf.

DR. JACOB ROSIN

GALL OF APPEASEMENT

Sir,—How can a person with the title of professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (David Newman, "Adams and Arafat," December 14) question Israel's legal or moral right to defend itself during the Six Day War of 1967 and in the process capturing the West Bank? Or how can Professor Newman imply that Israel's fighting for its very existence was an act of colonialism?

The gall of the appeasement camp has no bounds. Have they lost all sense of decency and honor with their false sense of reasoning and revision of history?

MAISH RUBIN
 Beersheba.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 18, 1932, The Palestine Post reported the Yishuv's opposition to the government's plan for the formation of a Legislative Council. Nahum Sokolow, president of the Jewish Agency, was not against the proposal merely on the ground that in such a Council Jews would remain a minority, but also because in view of the failure of the parliamentary institutions in other countries such a council would certainly become an instrument for politicians and not statesmen and would retard economic development.

50 years ago: On December 18, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that two Jews were wounded near Nevatim after an attack by a gang of 60 Arabs who were believed to have suffered severe losses. There was sporadic shooting in Jerusalem and a number of Jews and Arabs were injured. Jewish prisoners continued their fifth day of a strike in the Kishon lock-up in the Old City claiming poor sanitary and security conditions. In Tel Aviv Arabs handed over the body of Michael Boehm, 17, who was shot in the head in the Manshih border quarter. A number of Transjordan Frontier

guards soldiers deserted with their arms to Lebanon to fight for the Palestine Arabs.

25 years ago: On December 18, 1972, The Jerusalem Post reported that the Soviet Union was again "reappraising" relations with Egypt.

The Knesset Ecology Commission condemned government inaction on pollution and called for the tightening of regulations to combat air and noise pollution. It demanded from the government to stop passing the buck and to realize that ecology is its responsibility.

Alexander Zvielli

مكتبة الازهار

Weekender

Sephardi power

The award-winning TV drama 'Shuli's Guy' portrays a community with 'a whole other value system'

By HELEN KAYE

Been two in a row for Doron Tsabari. Last year his *Underdogs - a War Movie* won the Israel Academy Award for Best Documentary. Last month his made-for-TV drama *Shuli's Guy* (*Yehoshua shel Shuli*) won him

the documentary aired earlier this year. Tonight, on Channel 2 at 9:05, audiences will have a chance to see what grabbed Academy members about *Shuli's Guy*.

Tsabari is delighted about the success, but cautious, saying that he still has a long way to go. "I've just about finished basic training. As a director I'm not ripe yet. I'm learning all the time, on every level."

On the subject of Israeli cinema and its own place in it, he says, "I see. There's a revolution in the air. In a few years Israeli films will be the hottest thing around. Up until a few years ago, Israeli films were pretty awful. They didn't really happen anywhere and they weren't about real people."

The Academy Award winners in the last two or three years have been the people he went to film school with at Tel Aviv University, and he counts them off on his fingers, like classmates Julie Shlesinger (*Afula Express*), practically won the boards this year, or Ran Kamini (*Who won this year's Best Documentary for Mother's First Olympics*).

Their films, he says, "connect. You should see the students I'm teaching. They're the new generation and are more connected to what makes them Israeli. Never mind the message. Cinema is about telling stories, and the stories I tell happen at eye level, to ordinary people, and that's why they communicate."

Underdogs out-rated even Dudu Yehoshua when it premiered, so much so that this cliff-hanger about the *Beit She'an* soccer club and its home town was aired again, and just as many saw it the second time around.

Shuli's Guy takes place on election day in Or Yehuda in 1977 when the town was still a disadvantaged development town with high unemployment. The 1977 elections were those which swept

the Likud and Menachem Begin to power in what became known as "the upset."

But at Shuli's house, nobody cares about the elections. Her fiancé is coming to meet her family for the first time and the household prepares, no one more than Mazal (Esti Yerushalmi). She has returned home after a painful divorce and the movie is really about her, about the choices she'll have to make when it comes time for her to elect her own future.

Technically, the movie is no great shakes. It can't be, not on the tiny budgets local filmmakers have to work with, but the story comes across tenderly yet un sentimentally. There are many, small directorial felicities, and the people are real, the ones we all meet everywhere.

Both Tsabari's prize-winning films deal with Israel's Sephardi community and culture "which has a whole other value system and which is where I come from," and which is only now beginning to flex its ethnicultural muscles after decades of being either marginalized or portrayed as a pathetic underdog.

The screenplay is by Dorit Rabinyan, whose first novel, *Omerjan*, about her grandmother's life in Persia, became a runaway bestseller. She brought the screenplay to Tsabari, who was immediately attracted to it because of the subject, the small-town venue, and the story.

Beyond that, he saw in *Shuli's Guy* not only an intimate and vivid recreation of everyday life in a Sephardi family but his own story, "the story of a man who comes from nowhere and saves a woman and her child. If it hadn't been for Avraham, my stepfather, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Tsabari, 33, was born in Haifa. His parents divorced when he was eight months old. His mother, a hairdresser, remarried when he was six and the family went to live in Arad, still a small town, where Tsabari grew up.

The Sephardi family, he says, regards divorce as a disgrace, and because Avraham married a divorced woman with a child, his own father has not spoken to him since the wedding. Similarly, an occupation, a trade "that will put money in the purse," is honored, and "when I told my relatives I was going into film, they were



Esti Yerushalmi stars in 'Shuli's Guy' - an intimate and vivid recreation of everyday life in a Sephardi family which views divorce as a disgrace. (Moshe Shai)

horrified. Until I started winning prizes. Then they became reconciled, seeing that you could actually make money at this."

Tsabari's fascination with the medium started when his biological father, a ticket scalper, would park his boy in two or three movies a day on their weekends together while he sold his tickets.

The movies were also an escape from the boredom of life in Arad. To earn ticket money, the 11-year-old Tsabari went to work cleaning stairwells. Then, at 14, he got smart and offered to put up movie posters in return for free tickets. But Tel Aviv was where he longed to be. Tel Aviv was where the action was. Where else could guys lick chocolate off a girl's body at a party? At least that was what he'd heard.

At 11 he had also decided to become prime minister "so I consciously did things that would look good in my autobiography," like getting good grades, heading the student council, and becoming a Hashomer Hatza'ir counselor.

He became a lieutenant in Nahal Commando, served in Lebanon, and later went to jail four times for

refusing to do his reserve duty in the territories. When he got out of the army in 1986, everybody else took off with backpacks, but he went to Hollywood. "I spent the worst year of my life there. I was lonely. I didn't belong. I didn't like America. The closest I got to the movies was having my picture taken outside Steven Spielberg's house."

Home again, he enrolled in film school at TAU, "where I really started to blossom." *Drix*, the graduating film he made with Uri Lubar, won them six Mograbi prizes in 1994.

Tsabari is political, fairly far to the left as his IDF full time indicates. Those who watched the Academy Awards will remember Tsabari on stage holding his poster of Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, telling people to call the ministry to protest the cut-off of funds to the industry.

He believes in justice and in the power of the press and the media to help get it. That's partly why he became a journalist, starting at the now defunct daily *Hadashot* "because a newspaper should be

the mouth of people without one." It was also how he supported his studies.

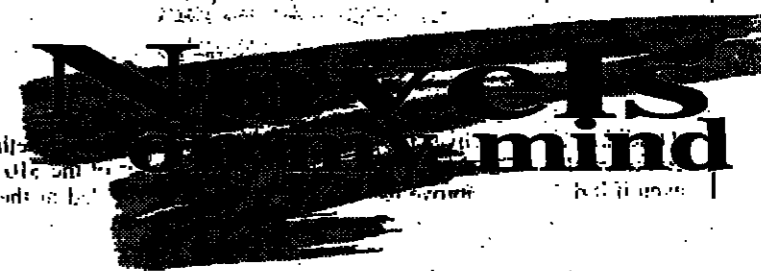
But it was film he wanted, "because the paper wraps fish the next day but a movie lives forever." So he quit a good paying job as an assignments editor on Channel 2 and was out of work for a year. He got so desperate, he even considered the civil service.

It was while he was waiting in line for an application that salvation appeared in the form of a girl who told him that the Hebrew/Arabic *Hamsa Hamisha* program was looking for correspondents.

That was the beginning of what looks like a brilliant career, but Tsabari is keeping his feet on the ground. He's currently editing a documentary he made about last year's Oscars in Los Angeles, which he hopes will be his passport to the English-language movie world. But he's also teaching film to eager hopefuls in Sderot, Dimona, Ofakim and at the Orthodox film school, Bama'aleh. "Tell the story, be real, be easy, loose, and look around you," he instructs them.



AFTER HOURS



Novelist A.B. Yehoshua talks about his favorite books of the 20th century

A.B. Yehoshua is one of our towering literary figures, and he is as prolific as he is creative. Beginning with his first collection of stories, *Death of an Old Man* (1962), Yehoshua plowed ahead, writing everything from radio plays and short stories to his well-known novels, including *The Lover* (1981), *A Late Divorce* (1982), *Mr. Mani* (1990), and his latest, *Voyage To the End of the Millennium* (1997). In the process, he has helped to propel Israeli literature onto the world scene, with 10 books translated into 23 languages.

Yehoshua is known for his pioneering fiction techniques and intricate use of modern Hebrew, while his plots tackle the thorniest dilemmas of Israeli public and private life. He was born and raised in Jerusalem - his father was a Sephardi fourth-generation sabra, and his mother immigrated from Morocco in 1932.

In choosing his favorite novels of this century, Yehoshua says: "There is absolutely no comparison between the first half of this century - in particular, the period between the two world wars - and the second. In literature, as well as in art and music, the most meaningful art was produced between 1910 and 1935."

He laments what he sees as the comfort and perhaps passivity of the post-modern era in the century's latter half. He bases his choices on the books' historical-intellectual contexts as much as their literary qualities.

1. *The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner (1929)
"One critic compared the importance of this work in the development of modern literature to the contribution of Beethoven's Third Symphony in the development of music. On one level, the story is a spiritual and social description of the life of a family in the southern United States. But in this work, Faulkner also brings the concept of internal monologue to its artistic peak within mainstream literature."
2. *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf (1927)
"Writing by women was considered entirely 'popular' when this book was published. This wonderful author gave women's writing its subtlety and complexity. The work also addresses the problems of belief and the process of creativity, expressed
3. *Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka (1916)
"The beautiful but revolutionary story about a man who turns into an insect and thereby embarks upon a new, special interaction with his family. This is pure surrealism, full of paradoxes that incessantly give way to others, written in the most believable manner. This story has garnered more interpretations than any other book of the 20th century."
4. *A Simple Story* by S.Y. Agnon (1935)
"Agnon is one of the most important Israeli writers, and this book is rightfully considered one of the most beautiful pieces of prose written in modern Hebrew. It's a story about simple love between very simple people, yet it has so many layers, so rich with psychological meaning. I find myself drawn to reread it again and again, and at this point, I know almost the entire book by heart."
5. *The Stranger* by Albert Camus (1942)
"Written in 1942, this book opened the era of literature that followed the Second World War. If one wants to understand the incipience of ideas that are now so common and so deeply internalized, this compact and powerful creation foreshadows the birth of the most fundamental concepts of the modern period."
- Dahlia Scheindlin



(Zavi Akefman)

Hot tip

By KAREN SULKIS

Tel Aviv

"Women's Health for the 21st Century: Taking Control" is the theme of a women's health symposium taking place tonight at the Dan Accadia Hotel. Speakers include noted American surgeon Dr. Frayer Schnabel and women's health expert and author Dr. Eileen Hoffman. The program begins at 8. The Dan Accadia is located on Ramat Yam Street in

Herzliya Pituah. Call (09) 957-6076.

The Appropo in Tzahala goes swing tonight, with music by saxophonist Albert Piamenta, double bassist Eli Magen, pianist Nahum Parnikovich and drummer Pappo Levi. Tonight at 10. Call 648-7098.

If you're able to get tickets, you can catch Lars von Trier's film *The Kingdom II* tonight at 7 at the Cinematheque. Von Trier's *Breaking the Waves* was an especially popular Cinematheque draw earlier this year, selling out screenings for months. Will *The Kingdom II* do the same? Find out for yourself. Call 691-7181.

The documentary *Trembling Before God* explores issues of homosexuality and religion. The film, which was shot in New York, London and Los Angeles over the course of three years, screens tonight at 8 at 28 Nahmani Street. Call 620-4327.

The children's play *Grandpa Comes to Kindergarten* takes the stage today at 5 p.m. at the Neveh Tzedek Center. Young people ages 3 to 7 are invited. Call 516-4754.

Arkady Duchin headlines a Radio Tel Aviv show tonight at 9 at the Port.

Afula Express comes to Tel Aviv. Single parents and singles in their 40s and 50s can thrill to a show by magician Gerald Senehi. The Experimentalist. The program starts tonight at 9. Call 964-8789 or 696-9017 for location details.

Jerusalem

Jerusalem Witch Way? Dr. Jenny Klein and Serpentine present *Witches' Brew: The History, Practice and Culture of Witches*, a words-and-music discussion for women only. Tonight at 8 a.m. Kol Ha'isha Women's Center, 38 Ben-Yehuda

Street, third floor. Call 622-2591.

The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra presents a program of music from the movies. Carl Davis conducts his own work, as well as pieces by Henry (*The Pink Panther*) Mancini, John (*Star Wars*) Williams, Nino Rota and others. Tonight at 8:30 at the Jerusalem Theater, Henry Crown Hall. Call 561-0011.

The Spanish dance troupe La Ribot performs *Piezas Distiguadas*, and Swiss dancer Gill Joban performs *Trilogy*. Tonight at 9 at Habama.

And Points Beyond

Arvo Walmer conducts the Haifa Symphony Orchestra in works by himself, Brahms and Nielsen. Tonight at 8:30 in the Haifa Theater North.

Professor Shlomo Avineri lectures on "Herz's Way Toward Zionism and Diplomacy," with

an introduction by Hanan Bar-On. Tonight at 8 at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot.

Romanian conductor Horia Andreescu leads American guest soprano Claudia Walte and the Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba in works by Mozart and Beethoven. Tonight at 8:30 at the Beersheba Conservatory.

Please note

Due to a sudden illness, trumpeter Nicholas Payton has had to postpone his two local concerts scheduled for tomorrow and Friday. A new date is expected to be announced shortly. Ticketholders are requested to go to or call the box office at the Israel Museum (02-670 8985) or the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center (03-692 7777) for a refund, a replacement or a voucher.

صكلا من الاصل

Weekender Food & Drink It's a wonderful loaf



Sandwiches made with homemade breads are sure to earn notes of praise.

By Jane Ingrassia Reinsel

Sandwiches are a lot like presents: It is the packaging that gets the initial attention. Take, for example, a sandwich that is made with sliced, store-bought bread. As flavorful as the filling may be, the packaging doesn't say special the way it does when the same filling is put on homemade bread.

The following bread recipes are infused with such bold ingredients as olives, onions and cheese. And if you prefer to use technology in the kitchen, we offer a bread-machine variation for each recipe, plus filling suggestions. Now is the perfect time to serve sandwiches made with homemade breads. You might even get thank-you notes for these.

RED PEPPER-CHEESE BREAD

1 package dry yeast
2 tsp. sugar
1 cup warm water
3 cups bread flour, divided
2 tsp. Dijon mustard
1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2-3/4 tsp. ground red pepper
1/2 cup shredded extra-sharp cheddar cheese
cooking spray

Dissolve yeast and sugar in warm water in a large bowl and let stand 5 minutes. Add 1 cup flour, mustard, oil, salt and pepper and stir until smooth. Add 1 1/2 cups flour and cheese and stir to form a soft dough.

Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Knead until smooth and elastic (about 10 minutes); add enough of remaining flour, 1 Tbsp. at a time, to prevent dough from sticking to hands.

Place dough in a large bowl coated with cooking spray, turning to coat top. Cover and let rise in a warm place, free from drafts, 1 hour or until doubled in bulk. Punch dough down; turn out onto a lightly floured surface.

Roll dough into a 30 x 15 cm. rectangle. Roll up rectangle tightly, starting with a short edge, pressing firmly to eliminate air pockets. Pinch seam and ends to seal. Place roll, seam side down, in a 20 x 11 cm. loaf pan coated with cooking spray. Cover and let rise 45 minutes or until doubled in bulk.

with cooking spray. Cover and let rise 1 hour or until doubled in bulk.

Preheat oven to 190°. Uncover dough; bake at 190° for 35 minutes or until loaf sounds hollow when tapped. Remove from pan immediately; cool on a wire rack.

OLIVE BREAD

1 package dry yeast
2 tsp. sugar
1/2 cup warm water
3 cups bread flour, divided
1/2 cup cornmeal
1/4 cup plain fat-free yogurt
1/2 cup chopped green olives
1 Tbsp. olive oil
1 tsp. dried rosemary
1/4 tsp. salt
cooking spray

Dissolve yeast and sugar in warm water in a small bowl; let stand 5 minutes.

Combine yeast mixture, 1 1/2 cups flour, cornmeal, yogurt, olives, oil, rosemary and salt in a large bowl. Beat at medium speed of a mixer until blended. Add 1 1/2 cups flour; stir until a soft dough forms.

Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Knead until smooth and elastic (about 8 minutes). Place in a large bowl coated with cooking spray, turning to coat top. Cover and let rise in a warm place, free from drafts, 1 hour or until doubled in bulk.

Punch dough down; turn out onto a lightly floured surface. Let rest 5 minutes. Knead lightly. Roll into a 30 x 15 cm. rectangle. Roll up starting with a short edge, pressing firmly to eliminate air pockets; pinch seam and ends to seal. Place roll, seam side down, in a 20 x 11 cm. loaf pan coated with cooking spray. Cover and let rise 45 minutes or until doubled in bulk.

Preheat oven to 190°. Uncover dough; bake at 190° for 30 minutes or until loaf sounds hollow when tapped. Remove from pan immediately; cool on a wire rack.

when tapped. Remove from pan immediately; cool on a wire rack.

Bread-Machine Variation: Follow manufacturer's instructions for placing all dough ingredients in bread pan. Select cycle; start bread machine.

GRAHAM CRACKER BREAD

1 package dry yeast
1/4 cup warm water
2 cups and 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour, divided
1/4 cup cinnamon graham cracker crumbs (about 5 full cracker sheets)
1/2 cup whole-wheat flour
2 Tbsp. honey
1/2 tsp. dried orange rind
1/2 tsp. salt
2 Tbsp. margarine, chilled and cut into small pieces
1/2 cup warm water
cooking spray

Dissolve yeast in 1/4 cup warm water; let stand 5 minutes.

Place 2 cups all-purpose flour and next 5 ingredients (all-purpose flour; through salt) in a food processor; pulse 4 times. Add margarine; process 10 seconds. With processor on, slowly add yeast mixture and 1/2 cup water through food chute; process until combined.

With processor on, add 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour through food chute, 1 Tbsp. at a time, until dough leaves sides of bowl and forms a ball. Process 15 additional seconds.

Place dough in a large bowl coated with cooking spray, turning to coat top. Cover and let rise in a warm place, free from drafts, 45 minutes or until doubled in bulk. Punch dough down; divide into 3 equal portions.

Working with one portion at a time (cover remaining dough to keep it from drying out), shape each portion into a 26 cm. rope.

Place 3 ropes lengthwise on a large baking sheet; pinch ends together at one end to seal. Braid ropes; pinch loose ends to seal. Place in an 18 x 9 cm loaf pan coated with cooking spray. Cover and let rise 45 minutes or until doubled in bulk.

Preheat oven to 190°. Bake at 190° for 30 minutes or until loaf sounds hollow when tapped. Remove from pan immediately; cool on a wire rack.

Bread-Machine Variation: Increase second listing of water from 1/4 cup to 1 cup; follow manufacturer's instructions for placing all dough ingredients in bread pan. Select cycle; start bread machine.

OATMEAL-ONION BATTER BREAD

1 1/4 cups warm water, divided
1 cup plus 1 tsp. quick-cooking oats, divided
2 Tbsp. brown sugar
1 package dry yeast
3 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup minced onion
2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
1 tsp. salt
cooking spray

Combine 1 cup warm water, 1/2 cup oats and brown sugar in a small bowl.

Dissolve yeast in 1/4 cup warm water in a bowl; let stand 5 minutes. Add oat mixture, 1/2 cup oat flour, onion, oil and salt; stir until well-blended. (Batter will be stiff.) Cover and let rise in a warm place, free from drafts, 45 minutes or until doubled in bulk. Stir batter well.

Spoon batter into a 20 x 11 cm. loaf pan coated with cooking spray. Sprinkle with 1 tsp. oats. Cover and let rise 30 minutes or until doubled in bulk.

Preheat oven to 190°. Uncover dough; bake at 190° for 50 minutes or until loaf sounds hollow when tapped. Remove from pan immediately; cool on a wire rack.

Bread-Machine Variation: Follow manufacturer's instructions for placing all dough ingredients in bread pan. Select cycle; start bread machine.

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Wine Cellar

Fine Italian Wine

By NOGA TARNOPOLSKY

A recent trip to Italy's Piedmont region allowed me to taste the uncommon pleasures of a few very intense wine-making areas, which have very recently produced truly exceptional wines. Now, it is becoming an experiment with blends, some of which include some of the more unusual varieties, such as Nebbiolo and Barbera. Italian wine-makers are beginning to experiment with the most popular wine-making techniques, including the use of smaller wine barrels and the greater frequency of bottling. These have been produced before, but not in the new blends, but also among many of the best producers of Barolo, Nebbiolo and Barbera.

One to keep our eyes open for is Giacchino and Paolo's small winery, run by Guido and Aldo. Their 1996 Chardonnay was among the best we tasted in the region, with an enticing balance of apple, pear and wood in the wine. Their 1996 Nebbiolo—a blend consisting of 45 percent Nebbiolo grapes, 45 percent Barbera grapes and 10 percent Cabernet—already is almost impossible to find in the wine shops. For a good reason: It was excellent. Many a wine is complex, multi-layered, yet balanced, with a bouquet of flavors and a hint of structure that is well worth seeking out.

Barolo and Nebbiolo wine that has moved into the wine shops has become the most popular and sought-after wine in the country.

One reason for the popularity of Barolo I was served a wine that was truly exceptional. It was a Barolo wine, one of the most intense and powerful wines I have ever tasted. It was a blend of Nebbiolo and Barbera grapes, with the perfect combination of complexity, structure and light resistance to oxidation. The winemaker, Giacomo Conata, prepares it only with the best grapes, and he is willing to guess that it is one of the best wines you try it with.

BAROLO AT BAROLO
By Noga Tarnopolsky, Creators of the Doron Bar-On

Barolo is a wine that is truly exceptional. It is a blend of Nebbiolo and Barbera grapes, with the perfect combination of complexity, structure and light resistance to oxidation. The winemaker, Giacomo Conata, prepares it only with the best grapes, and he is willing to guess that it is one of the best wines you try it with.

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By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Phyllis's Tips

Missed muffins (avoid)
Sometimes I really don't understand how a product ever made it to supermarket shelves. Don't manufacturers taste their products before they market them? The new Magalenas—sponge-like muffins with apricot jam filling—made me wonder about this. Although they look attractive when you open the package, these dry, orange-flavored, overly sweet muffins are bad enough. With their overly sweet apricot filling, they definitely should be avoided.

The cover says "natural ingredients," but one only has to read the list of ingredients to discover that both the jam and the muffins themselves contain preservatives. Also available with chocolate and strawberry fillings. A package of six costs NIS 6 to NIS 8.20, depending on the supermarket.

Hot cocoa (good)
There was a time when the

only way to get a cup of hot chocolate was to mix a little cocoa powder with sugar and a pinch of salt and add boiling water or milk. Then came the age of instant cocoas; they had everything in them but the liquid and could be used to make hot or cold beverages. But the truth is, that if you want a really good cup of hot chocolate, there's nothing like starting out with cocoa powder.

Although Elite's cocoa powder isn't the best I've tasted, it's fine for baking and various other recipes. It now is available in a newly designed box in two sizes, 150 gr. for NIS 3.85 and 1 kg. for NIS 16.60.

Clever catering (good)
What a clever way to announce yourself! Caterer Doron Bar-On, of Un Chef Chez Soi, sent out little spice packages and a card with a recipe for fish using his spices. Although his number is in the Haifa area, Bar-On caters around the country. For information call him at (04) 989-3247.

Ice coffee (avoid - fair)
If you are too lazy to mix instant coffee, boiling water and milk together with sugar, you'll be pleased to know that Tara Dairy has done it for you. Ice Cafe, Tara's new product, is sold in 500-ml. cartons. The difference

between your coffee and Tara's is of course the emulsifier and the dubious "flavors," which add both a thickness and an artificiality to the coffee you couldn't achieve alone. Tara suggests warming it in the microwave in the winter and serving it chilled in the summer. Why bother? NIS 3.40.

El Al's Bagel Bagel (fair)

The folks at Bagel Bagel have proudly informed the public that from now on El Al and Arkia passengers will be served Bagel Bagel's Nishumshum crackers on their flights. The company in business for 120 years, has better products than the one chosen by the airlines. Perhaps that's why airline food has the reputation it does.

Free cheese tastings (excellent)

Here's a fun way to spend Friday—go to a free tasting of goat and sheep cheeses at Castiel, one of Israel's most beautiful furniture stores. Each week a different dairy will offer tastings of its wares—accompanied by fine wines. On December 19, Barkanit will provide samples, and on December 26 Tuuva will. The tastings are from 9 to 2 on the kitchen display floor at Castiel (9 Wolfson Street, Tel Aviv). For details contact Tamar Maiser at (03) 523-3404.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Twice in the last few months we've woken up Shabbat morning to discover that my wife's chicken-based cholent had gone bad, or at least had a rancid smell. Would you be so kind as to give us some guidelines as to cooking cholent.

—Shlomo Eitan, Jerusalem

There are several reasons this could happen. If she used a frozen chicken, she may have defrosted it at room temperature before cooking it, which means that bacteria could have developed. If the chicken was fresh, it might not have been as fresh as the butcher claimed. Another possibility is that the chicken was not well cleaned. (It should be scalded with boiling water and cleaned as for chicken soup.)

Whenever I make cholent, I always bring the mixture to a boil and cook it for at least 15-20 minutes on medium heat before low-

ering the heat. (I continue cooking it on a gas burner rather than placing in the oven.) Perhaps she didn't bring the mixture to a boil first, so the microorganisms had time to develop in the warm atmosphere.

What can I put on the baking stone so that the pizza doesn't stick to it? The directions say to put cornmeal on it, but I do not know what it is called in Hebrew.

—Nava Siegelman Danielli, Haifa

If the stone is hot enough and the dough isn't sticky, it should not stick to your baking stone. But just to make sure, use *kemah tiras*, which is cornmeal in Hebrew.

What is arugula called in Hebrew and Latin and what can it be used for, other than a pizza topping, as suggested by Noga Tarnopolsky (At the Chef's Table, December 5)?

—Zelda Beemel, Michmoret

Arugula, also known as rocket or roquet in English, is called *roka* in Hebrew and *gargir* in Arabic. I'm not familiar with the Latin name. Arugula is fabulous in salads. I've also seen it stir-fried with olive oil and garlic. With a kick

similar to watercress, it is good in sandwiches as well.

What is coriander in Hebrew? Does it have another English name? What can I substitute for it? Should I try a little curry?

—Joan, Jerusalem

Coriander is *kuzbara* in Hebrew, but I don't know if you mean dry or green coriander. In America, we called coriander Chinese parsley in New York and by its Spanish name, *cilantro*, in California. In Hebrew, fresh coriander is *kuzbara yeruka* and dried is *kuzbara yevasha*.

A reader writes:
I just saw a reader's query about vegetarian cooking classes in Jerusalem. Then I saw a flier advertising such classes. So here's the phone number that was on the flier: (02) 672-5767.

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted at The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000, or by E-mail: phyllisfood@post.co.il. Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, as inquiries cannot be answered individually. Feedback also appears in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on Friday.

Sandwich ideas

Olive Bread
This bread has flavors and ingredients that are characteristic of Mediterranean cuisine. It goes well with simple fillings, like sliced cucumbers, onions, tomatoes and feta cheese tossed together with some fat-free Caesar dressing.

Oatmeal-Onion Batter Bread
Fillings that contain robust spices and ingredients, like curried egg salad, go well with this coarse-textured bread.

Graham-Cracker Bread
Because this bread is made with cinnamon graham cracker crumbs and honey, it pairs especially well with sweeter fillings.

- Reduced-fat chunky peanut butter and your favorite fruit jam or marmalade.
- Fruited chicken salad made with raisins, dates, grape halves or mandarin oranges.
- A spread made of light cream cheese blended with orange marmalade and chopped pecans. —JIR

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DRIVE CAREFULLY



For such a small production, the array of wines at the Cremisan Monastery is staggering. (Joel Fishman)

Weekender Travel

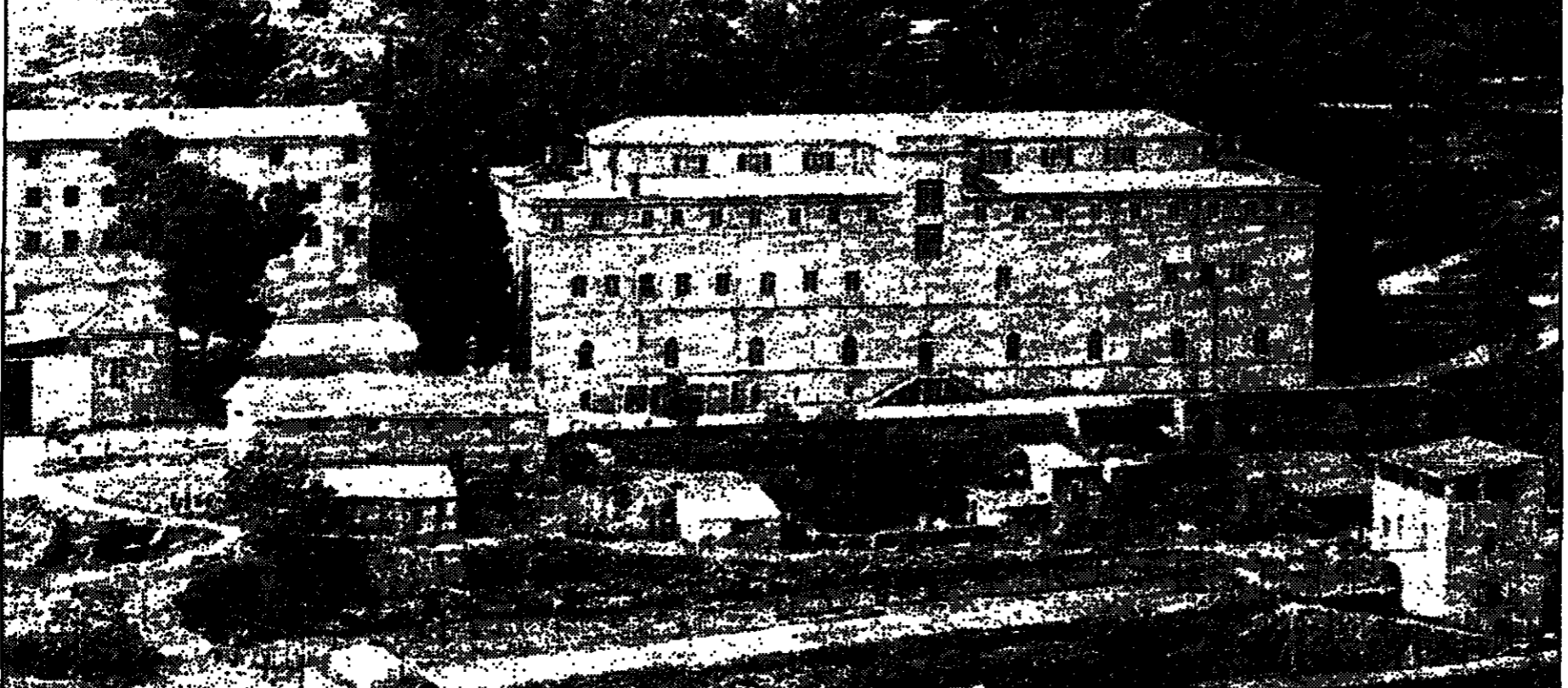
Forgotten landmark

Sandwiched in between Israeli apartment blocks and Palestinian luxury villas lies the monastery of Cremisan, an almost forgotten landmark. "Israelis used to come here all the time, before the intifada," says the vice-rector, Father Luciano Nordera. In the those days, the monastery would bustle with visitors, especially on Shabbat, when there was hardly room in the parking lot for all the cars and the monastery's wine shop would be jammed with would-be buyers. Then came the intifada and Israelis decided it

wasn't worth getting a broken windshield or worse, just to buy a bottle of wine. If there had been any signs of renewed visits, the recent terror attacks and subsequent closures put an end to that. Cremisan is on the border between the West Bank and Jerusalem, with the main building officially in Jerusalem and the storeroom on the other side of the parking lot in the West Bank. The long winding road, to the monastery is just past one of the coordinating offices between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. In the past, most Israeli visitors came to the monastery by driving through the outskirts of Bethlehem and the center of Beit Jalla, now both part of the Palestinian Authority. However, there is an alternate route, using the Bethlehem bypass highway from Jerusalem, following the prominent sign to Khadr, just after the tunnels, and turning right at the large intersection just after the Hope School. As one drives down the narrow winding road to the monastery, one passes dozens of new homes and apartments being built by Palestinians, while across the valley rise the apartment houses of Gilio. Only at the very end, almost at the entrance to Cremisan, does one have the feeling of isolation and rural beauty associated with the monastery. For the 37 theological students from around the world, including Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, who study there along with their dozen or so teachers, Cremisan is an island of tranquility. The main monastery building, which dates from the last century, has stone floors, worn shiny with use and scrubbing, and high arched ceilings. The walls are several meters thick, providing defense against winter chill and summer heat.

Prominently pictured on walls throughout are Pope John Paul II and Don Bosco, founder of the Silesian order, to which the monastery belongs. These days, with the year 2000 looming, the community of Cremisan, like many Christian institutions in this country, is mindful of the fact that millions of pilgrims are expected for the Jubilee year. It has applied for permission to expand the third story of the monastery building, a move that would enable it to house groups of pilgrims. The main attraction for the ordinary visitor is the wine cellar and adjoining shop, which is located a few hundred meters beyond the monastery building. The wine production here is limited to 700,000 liters a year, a drop in the barrel, as it were, compared to other wineries in the country. The grapes come from the order's own vineyards at Beit Jimal and Rifaat, near Beit Shemesh, as well as from the Beit Jalla and Hebron areas. Only two percent of the grapes come from the vineyards at Cremisan. For such a small production, the array of wines is staggering, including, for the first time this year, a sparkling wine, similar to Carmel's Fantasia. The cellar, with its high arched stone ceilings, is filled with oak casks of aging wine and brandy. Prices are extremely reasonable, ranging from NIS 12 to NIS 24 for the cellar's Cabernet Sauvignon, a wine that has the traits of a rough Chianti. The wine shop is open daily except Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1.30 to 4.30 p.m. Organized groups are welcome to picnic in the extensive forests surrounding the monastery if they make arrangements in advance. Tel. (02) 742605, fax (02) 744827.

Day Tripper By Haim Shapito



An island of tranquility: Theological students from around the world, including Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, study at the Cremisan Monastery.

On a Limb

The lowest bike trail on earth

People buy mountain bikes because they embody a sense of freedom. Unlike street bikes, they are specially built to jump rocks and branches, eat dirt, and whisk you over the steepest and toughest terrain. But too often, urban "mountain bikers" don't manage to escape the confines of cement, asphalt and steel. The trail remains an unfulfilled dream, infinitely postponed till tomorrow. My advice is to follow the wisdom of the Nike marketing slogan and "just do it." Get out of the city, and quick, before the really rainy weather settles in. Myself, I've just taken my first overnight off-road excursion since purchasing my mountain bike two and a half years ago - an exceedingly beautiful ride through the arid, moon-like landscape of the Dead Sea. And it was easy - for the most part. There is a seemingly limitless number of trails in the Judean Desert suitable for biking. While you can ride the scenic, virtually pedal-free descent down to the Dead Sea from Jerusalem on the main road or on smaller dirt trails, factor in the political climate as you will be going through the Palestinian territories. Because we were planning to tour the more distant southerly part of the region, we chose to view the sandy, barren mountains and scattered Beduin villages along the way through the windows of an Egged bus. You can store bicycles in the luggage compartment of the bus, but there is an additional charge equal to half the regular fare. We arrived at Ein Bokek - that midway Bamba break between Jerusalem and Eilat - at about 4 p.m. We took the road south along the sea which was relatively level and smooth. We passed a lake just off the road and watched the sun begin to set. With the evening upon us, we tried desperately to reach the closest designated sleeping station which was another 6 km. off the road, but we arrived at the turnoff

Nahal Pratzim is a biker's dream trail: the soft surface is easy to ride on, the surrounding mountains provide spectacular scenery, and utter quiet reigns. Best of all, it's downhill all the way.

just as the last vestiges of daytime were melting into darkness. Luckily, we saw on our map that there was another sleeping station perched just beyond the road. A huge metal sculpture entitled "The State of Man" loomed over the site, put up by none other than The Dead Sea Works. Our little private alcove afforded us views of a factory complex so vast, so lit up and full of smoking chimneys, that this Jersey girl felt right at home in the stark Israeli wilderness. (If you aren't pressed for time, there are many beautiful spots in the area,

designated for sleeping by the Nature Reserves Authority that are more remote.) We got up the following morning at 6, packed our bikes and set out for the desert. The ascent to the spectacular Flour Cave was probably the most difficult part of our trip, but well worth the effort. We rode all the way to the entrance of the caves on the chalky, spongy Nahal Pratzim trail. Thousands of years of water erosion into the mountain of salt and marl rock has produced this huge cave. Pale walls of rock etched with elaborate designs flank you on both sides. The short journey through the pitch-black cave is spooky and fun (we left our bikes at the entrance). A flashlight helped us avoid low ceilings and sharp turns, as well as the many sleeping bodies on the cave floor. Apparently the cave served as the venue for a gathering of the Rainbow Tribe. Nahal Pratzim is a biker's dream trail: the soft surface is easy to ride on, the surrounding mountains provide spectacular scenery, and utter quiet reigns. Best of all, it's downhill all the way for an hour. At the end of the river valley, you're about 6 km. from Ein Bokek along the main road. Ein Bokek, besides referring to the area crowded with hotels and spas, is a spring, similar to Nahal David at Ein Gedi, but quieter and less visited. You can ride up the creek through the lush reserve for about 10 minutes, at which time it's better to throw the bikes into a bush and explore the area on foot. Ibexes abound and the waterfalls and pools are perfect for bathing. Somehow the beauty of the landscape is intensified when you pedal through it on your bicycle. The sea is more sparkling, the mountains more towering, the wildlife a bit friendlier. Call it the rewards of a hard-won effort. So, don't be just another urban yuppie. Unlock that pricey mountain bike from the telephone pole outside your apartment, jump on the saddle and head south.

Ride the scenic, virtually pedal-free descent from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea on the main road or on smaller dirt trails. (Matthew Lit)



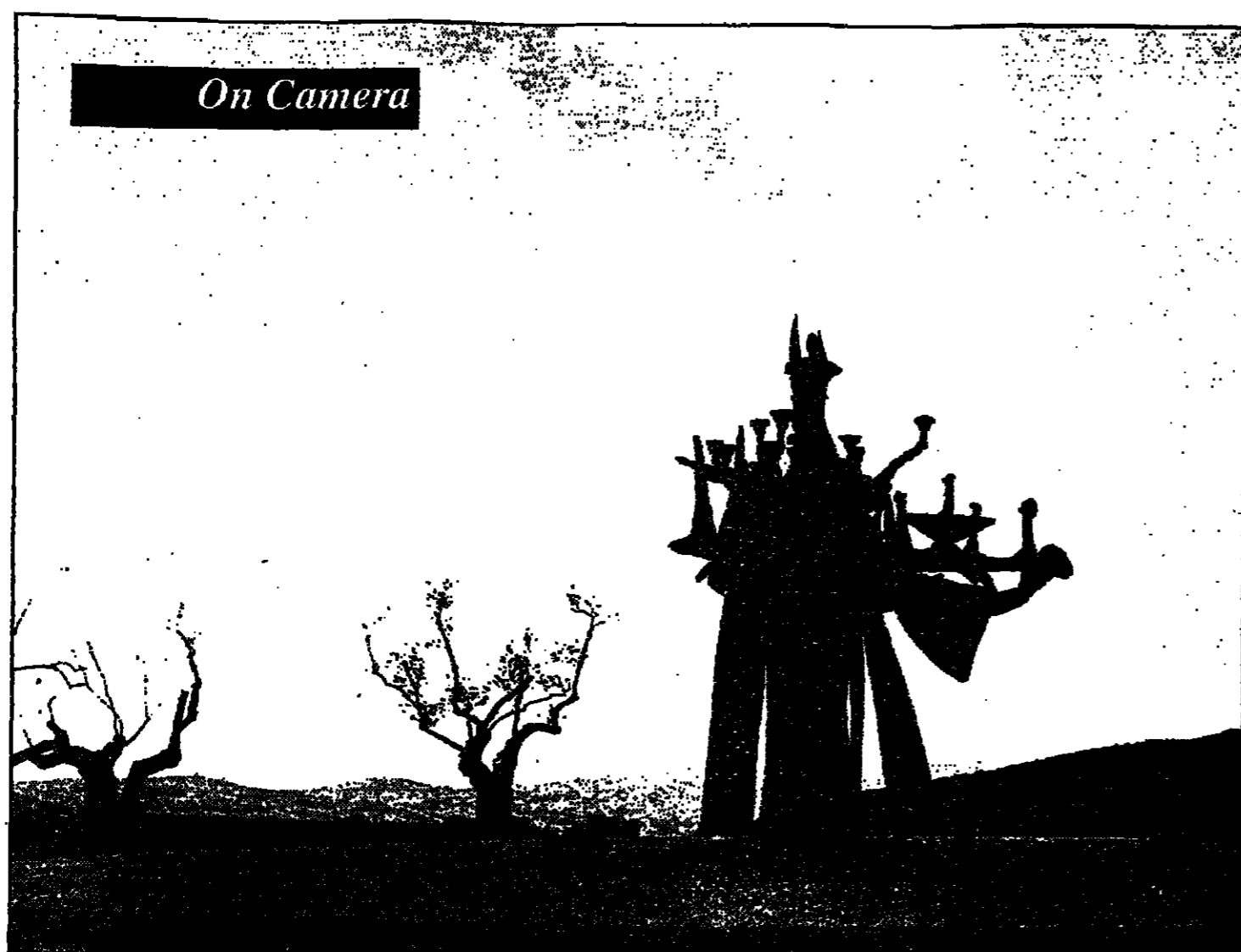
Be prepared

You don't need to be a triathlete-in-training to enjoy mountain biking in the Judean desert. Actually, the most important component of a successful trip is to plan well. We didn't. Which makes me qualified to tell you what can - and will - go wrong on such a trip, and how to avoid little nuisances. First of all, a few days before the trip, get your bike ready for the journey. Take it to the shop for that long overdue overhaul and make sure its up for the challenge. If you don't already have saddle bags, now's the time to invest. A bottle and water-bottle holder is a must for those easy-to-grab drinks, and if the frame of your bike is big enough, get two. You'd be surprised how quickly you go through a liter of water in the baking sun. An air pump and flashlight could prove to be real lifesavers.

The next step is packing. Pack light and pack well, and load in what you can the night before (meaning everything but food). You'll need a sleeping bag, suitable clothing (while desert days are hot and dry, nights can get cold and windy). You can't have too much water. One of those small gas burners will come in extremely handy for cooking and making hot drinks. We left ours sitting on the counter at home, which was a bad idea because there weren't any to be bought near the Dead Sea and firewood is hard to come by. Bring a lighter, a camera with film, a good trail map (and someone who can read it). Non-perishable foods like nuts, fruit roll, bread and some vegetables are easy to store and eat. We planned for more ambitious meals, but ended up not having the patience - or

the proper heating unit - to do any real cooking. We were saved by a last-minute inspiration to bring along a package of hot dogs, which cook fast over a small fire. Don't forget coffee, tea and sugar, a pot and utensils. Remember to check the weather report. Flash floods can be dangerous. Get up early the day of your trip. Finish any last-minute packing and leave. We tried to do everything that morning and as a result forgot things and didn't get on our way till afternoon. Lastly, at the end of your exciting and tiring weekend of biking, you'll need to get home. The bus from Eilat to Jerusalem stops on its way at Ein Bokek at around 7:30 on Saturday nights. Don't miss it! The road back up to Jerusalem is a killer. - T.F.

صكدا عن الاصل



Sculpture garden, Israel Museum, Jerusalem

(photos: Marli Shamir)

Of light and luck

By DAVID BRAUNER

"A photographer without luck is not a photographer." Here speaks the voice of experience, the voice of photographer Marli Shamir who in her long career has had plenty of luck, but also more than a little disappointment and frustration.

She recalls one of those lucky moments in the Billy Rose Sculpture Garden of the Israel Museum. The sun was low and shining into her lens. The image she caught included a flare spot framing a young girl leaping for the sky. "The photograph jumped out at me," says Shamir. "I ran after it. I ran and pressed the shutter. She [the young girl] was like an angel that just landed. Everything and every person was in place."

Still elegant in her 70s, Shamir began formal study of photography as a teenager in Berlin during the mid-1930s. Her initial studies in aesthetics were so free that she did not know "where to begin." Later she studied microphotography in Copenhagen, where she came into contact with the Zionist and kibbutz movements. She did *hachshara* in Sweden. There she met Werner Braum (another veteran Israeli photographer), who helped her build her own darkroom.

"Since then the photo virus has never left me." She arrived in pre-state Israel in 1938 at age 19.

In her early years living in a tent on kibbutz, there was only time for "bread and butter" photography. While working as a science photographer at Rehovot's Weizmann Institute, she churned out 1,000 prints a day in hot, primitive conditions. Today, she does not know how she managed this feat.

In 1945 Shamir moved to Jerusalem to set up a studio. To this day, the city's stony magic has captivated Shamir's camera. She has made a point of systematically photographing Jerusalem life and architecture, whenever time permits her the luxury of doing her own thing.

During the War of Independence, apart from maintaining her partnership in a studio/shop on Jaffa Road and supporting her newly arrived parents who had somehow survived the Holocaust, Shamir worked for the Hagana secretly photographing thousands of British documents in dangerous conditions. The way to and from work involved "dodging bullets and shells. People ran from one courtyard to the next. That's when I got to know Jerusalem."

In 1953 she married career diplomat Meir Shamir. As the wife of an ambassador, she had many duties that kept her out of the darkroom. On the other hand, the Shamirs spent many years abroad. Between 1966 and 1973 the couple served in the West African countries of Ivory Coast, Mali and Gabon. The statuesque people and mud-built architecture of Mali proved the most interesting to her photographic eye.

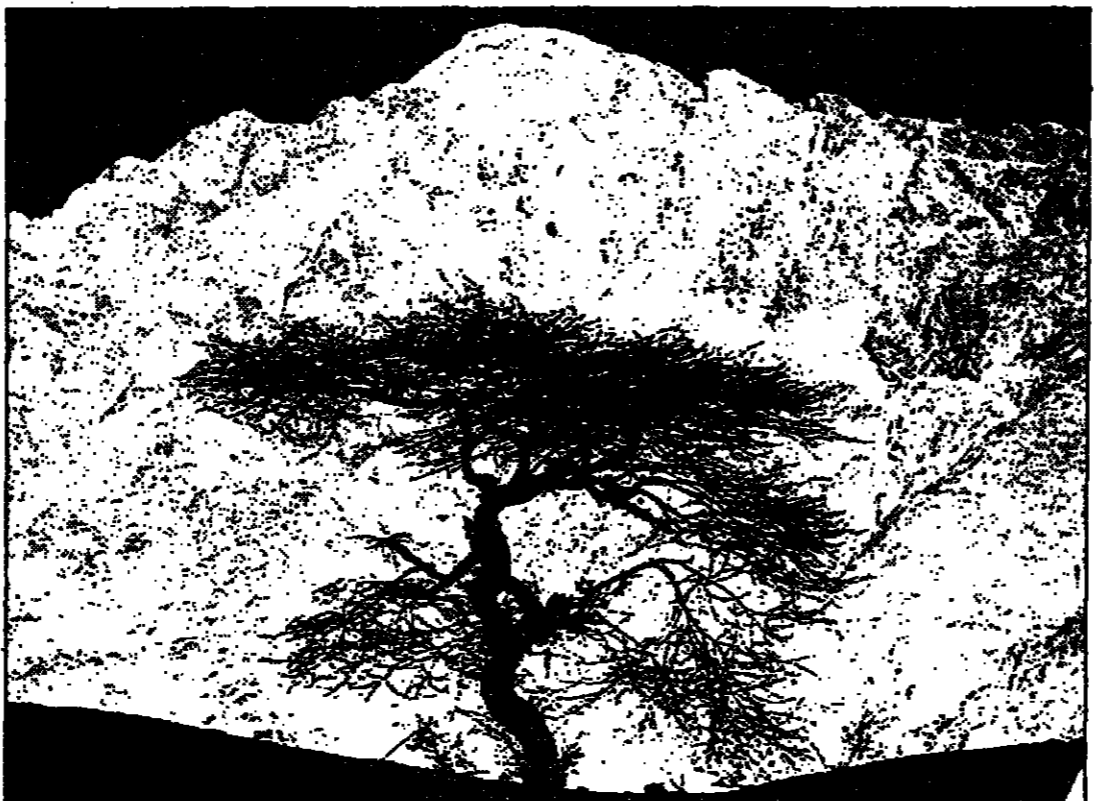
Shamir says that "the light there [in equatorial Africa] is so strong that one felt the need to wear two pairs of sunglasses." All outings began at three in morning. Also, the extremes of heat and humidity



Above: Photographer Marli Shamir (David Brauner)

Right: Study in black, white and gray at Mopti in Mali

Below: Desert acacia in the Negev near Eilat, 1949.



meant she had to work for months in the darkroom to achieve reliable and consistent results.

Moving on to the '80s and Strasbourg, Shamir was approached by a Canadian secretary who was researching a doctorate on "Architecture in the Art Nouveau Style." She needed illustrations and asked Shamir to teach her photography. However, it became apparent after a few lessons that it was better if Shamir did the photography herself. Her contribution to the thesis helped restore the Strasbourg municipal records destroyed by the Germans in the First World War, and resulted in a solo exhibition.

In Paris, color engaged Shamir's work, and she experimented with the Cibachrome process of printing stills from slides. She recalls wasting materials, time, money and many a night until she perfect-

ed the process. Her Paris period inspired more freedom in her photography. "Without any objective in mind," she explored the curiosities of reflected light in windows and mirrors.

Back home in Jerusalem, Shamir spent six months ferreting out every angle and ray of light in the new Supreme Court building. The result was "The Hall of Light" (1994) exhibition, which still appears throughout the Far East and the Americas.

Despite her travels to far and exotic lands, Shamir makes it clear that some of her favorite photographs were taken literally in her own backyard. For years, she has stolen quiet moments to cover every inch of a barren, rock- and junk-strewn tract of land near her Beit Hakerem home. Then two years ago bull-

dozers began clearing the land for construction.

"Now," she laments, "my field is gone." For Shamir, who still actively photographs, picture-taking is not just light and luck, however important these two factors may be. "Photography is still identified as pressing a button; the viewer doesn't know anything about the time-consuming work before and after. The end product must be good. It shouldn't be seen if it is not good."

Shamir's latest exhibition, "Junk Sculpture" at Jerusalem's Nora Gallery opens in mid-January.

Your photography questions and comments are welcome. Contact David Brauner, e-mail: mor-rir@mail.biu.ac.il or fax (02) 563-7792 or via Photo Archives, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000.

Weekend Leisure

Bridge

Down three in the kibitzer's chair

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

North (Burger)
♠ K 10 3
♥ K 9 8 3
♦ K 9 2
♣ 9 4 2

West (Mrs. Sprung) East (Mr. Sprung)
♠ Q A Q 10 2
♥ 7 5 4 3
♦ 7 6 5 3
♣ 7 6 5 3

South (Cayne)
♠ A 9 8 4
♥ J 6 5 4
♦ A Q 10
♣ A 10

South West North East
1 NT pass 2 ♠ pass
2 ♥ pass 3 ♥ pass
4 ♥ (all pass)

Opening lead: ♠ 5

When you travel halfway around the world to play bridge, it goes without saying that it's a good idea not to play on the very afternoon you arrive.

Recently, in this situation, I had the experience of going down three tricks in a contract. Luckily for me, I was only kibitzing, not playing! The scene was the American Fall Nationals in St. Louis, Missouri. My flight from Tel Aviv and New York arrived on Monday morning, and I wisely refused to play the afternoon session, saving myself for the evening. Instead, I sat down to watch the Board-a-Match team final. On the first board of the

afternoon I was glad I was only kibitzing. Board-a-Match scoring is mostly an American system, wherein a team of four players is split up: one pair plays North-South and the other pair East-West. Each deal is scored a "win," "half" or "loss," depending on the combined scores of your table and that of your teammates.

When you kibitz at bridge, it is proper etiquette to watch only one hand. This restriction also makes the kibitzing more enjoyable because you can put yourself in one player's position and see how you would have done holding his cards. With this in mind, I chose to sit behind Jimmy Cayne (South on today's deal) who, when he is not winning bridge championships, is chairman of the board at Bear Stearns Co., a stock-brokerage house in New York. His partner is Chuck Burger, a lawyer from Detroit, and their opponents on this round were recently married Jo Ann and Danny Sprung, of Philadelphia.

Cayne opened the bidding one notrump and heard his partner bid two clubs, Stayman. He showed his lower four-card major, and when partner invited game with a raise to three hearts, he accepted. I was a bit surprised that he bid four hearts with a minimum 15-count, but he did have lots of low-level trumps, especially valuable in trump contracts.

Mrs. Sprung (West) led a low club and I quickly tried to analyze the hand before Cayne played. Looking only at the North-South cards, the contract appeared hopeless. My thoughts were: Duck the club lead, win the club return, lead a heart to the king, cash three diamond winners, ruff a club and exit with a trump. If everyone follows to the minors and the trumps are 3-2, someone may win the double-

ton queen or doubleton ace of hearts and be endplayed, forced to open up the spade suit. South will lose only two hearts and one club.

Now I watched Cayne play the hand. He won the first trick and led a low heart. West followed smoothly with the deuce, and Cayne called for the 8 from dummy. The 8 won the trick! Cayne now led a club to East, who returned a club. Cayne cashed three diamonds and led a spade to dummy's ace. Next the ten of spades was led and, when East played low, Cayne also played low, finessing against the jack. West ruffed this trick with the ten of hearts but was able to score only one more trick, the ace of hearts - making 620.

(This result won the board for the Cayne team because his teammates were minus 110 at the other table, defending a contract of two hearts making two.)

What would have happened to me in my line of play? Well, my line was to duck the first club trick, win the return, lead a heart to the king, cash three diamonds, ruff a club, and lead a heart. On this deal, West would be able to cash three trump tricks, a diamond trick and a second club trick for down three. Cayne made 70 tricks and I made seven tricks. I knew it was going to be a long nap.

Later in the tournament, I gave the hand to several expert players, none of whom matched Cayne's successful line. One analyst pointed out, however, that West can defeat the contract by putting in the ten of hearts when the first round of trumps is led toward dummy. This is hardly an obvious move, since West doesn't expect declarer to put in the 8 on the first round.

Matthew Granovetter can be reached at gran@nvision.net.il.

Chess

The London Grandmaster

By NIGEL SHORT

It has been observed that Britain has a number of excellent chess players, but a relative paucity of tournaments. Either one can smuggle take the view that this reflects upon our native genius for producing talent in the most adverse of circumstances, or one can see this as a long-term cause for concern.

One man with the latter opinion, who has taken it upon himself to remedy the situation, is Adam Raof, who over the past year or two has organized several tournaments for people hoping to obtain international master results. No fewer than 16 "norms" have been attained, a great achievement. His second grandmaster event in London is underway as I write, offering our most promising young players a rare opportunity to reach the coveted title.

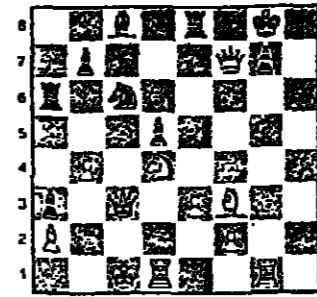
This bloodthirsty encounter occurred in the first round.

White: Turner
Black: Wells
London, 1997

1.e4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 c6 4.e3. Avoiding the complications of 4.e4 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Qxd4 7.Bxb4 Qxe4+ 8.Be2,

white but requires substantial homework 4...Nf6 4...f5 is reasonable here, but Peter Wells prefers to stick to the Semi-Slav on which he is something of an expert 5.Nf3 Nb6 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.b3 0-0 8.Bb2 e5 9.Be2 exd4 10.Nxd4 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Ne5 12.Be2 Re8 13.h3 Ng6? In the light of what happens, this looks inappropriate. Black is well poised for a kingside assault should Matthew

Black: (Wells)



White: (Turner) to play

Turner mistakenly castle that way, but he does not 14. 0-0-0! Qe7 15.g4 Bc3 16.g5. As one can see, the initiative is developing with alarming rapidity. 16...Nd5 17.Nxd5 cxd5 18.Bxa3 Qxa3+ 19.Qb2 offers an unpleasant endgame, which black wisely avoids 19...Qe7 19...Qd6! 20.h4 Ne5 21.Rhg1 Ne6 22.Bf3 a5 23.h5! 23.Bxd5 Qc5+ 24.Be4

Ne5 23...s4 24.g6 hxg6 25.hxg Ra5 26.gx7+ Qx7 27.b4 a3 28.Qc3 Ra6.

Black has tried to activate, but it has all come very much too late. 29.b5?! missing an elegant finish 29.Bxd5!! Qxd5 30.Ne6! Qe5 31.Rxg7+ Kh8 32.Rh1+ as pointed out by David Sedgwick afterwards. 29...Nx4 30.Rxd4 Rf6 30...Qxf3 31.Rxg7+ 31.Bxd5 Bc6 32.Bxe6 Qxe6 33.Rd4 Rf8 34.Rxg7+ Kh8 35.Rc7. And in this hopeless position black overstepped the time limit.

Congratulations to all those who sent in improved solutions to my problem the other week, where white with pawns on e3 and d3 had to exchange the position of his rooks. So far the best answer has been provided by Steve Ditchburn from Malta, who lopped several moves off my clumsy effort. Here is his solution. 1.Ke2 2.Bd2 3.Be1 4.Nd2 5.Racl 6.Nb1 7.Qd7 8.Rad1 9.Qel 10.Nd2 11.Qcl 12.Nb1 13.Bd2 14.Bcl 15.Racl 16.Kd2 17.Be2 18.Bd1 19.Nc2 20.Rhf1 21.Ng1 22.Be2 23.Rad1 24.Rhcl 25.Bf1 26.Rhe2 27.Racl 28.Kd1 29.Rhd2 30.Be2 31.Raf1 32.Ke1 33.Bd1 34.Ne2 35.Rah1 36.Ng1 37.Be2 38.Bf1 39.Ke2 40.Rhd1 41.Bd2 42.Bcl 43.Nd2 44.Qcl 45.Nb1 46.Qd2 47.Rhc1 48.Qd1 49.Nd2 50.Rhcl 51.Nb1 52.Bd2 53.Bcl 54.Ke1.

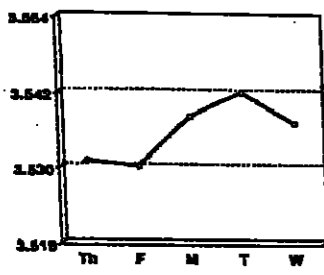
(© Telegraph Group)

صناديق اذاعات

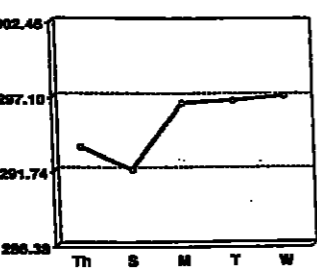
MARKETS

in brief

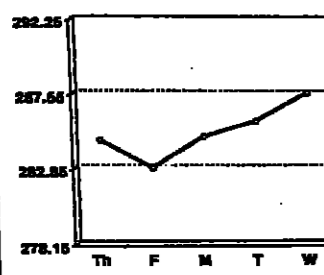
DOLLAR / SHEKEL



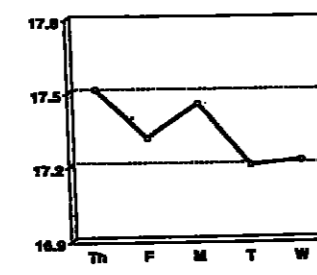
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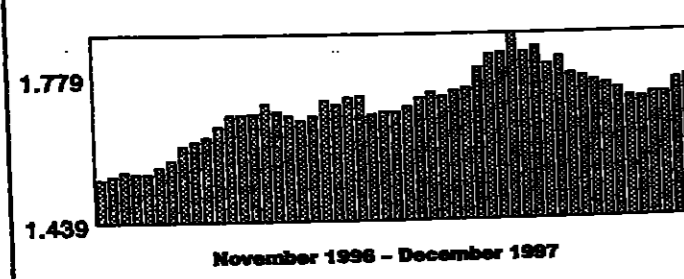
GOLD \$ per ounce



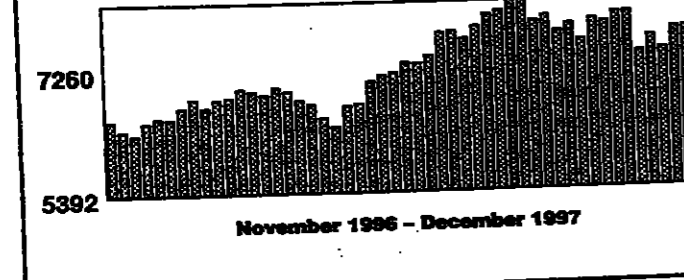
OIL \$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



MKs move to separate provident funds from banks

By DAVID HARRIS and DAN GERSTENFELD

A bill to remove provident funds (*kapot gemes*) from bank management passed a preliminary reading in the Knesset yesterday, by a vote of 19 to 3.

The measure, which would prevent banks from holding any controlling interests in the funds, was introduced by Haim Dayan, Pnina Badash (Tzomet), Yehuda Harel (The Third Way), Yoni Stern (Yisrael B'Aliya),

Nissim Dahan (Shas) and Avner Shaki (NRP). It is aimed at implementing recommendations of the Beisky Commission, which probed a 1983 crash in bank share prices on the stock exchange.

Retired Judge Moshe Beisky warned again last month that there was a conflict of interests in having banks manage the funds.

He said it was wrong, for example, that fund staff are being paid by banks. Furthermore, said the ex-judge, the banks charge a 0.7 percent administration fee.

Additionally, a separation of the funds from the banks would spur more competition over savings, which would lower interest rates in the long-term.

"Those who claim there is no alternative to banks managing the funds do not know about the potential profits and ingrained attractiveness of managing provident funds," said Dayan.

The banks are expected to protest and try to prevent a second reading of the bill. They have resisted similar suggestions in the past.

Senior bank managers often function as directors on provident fund investment committees.

Some funds have been criticized for tending to invest in their parent's shares and in other companies that the bank has holdings in.

As of December 31 last year NIS 109 billion or 19 percent of public savings was invested in provident funds. Of this figure, some 88% is held by the banks, according to Treasury figures.

Demand for housing falls 20%

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Demand for housing fell by 20 percent during the last 12 months, according to a survey carried out by Geocartography Institute for Spatial Analysis, which was presented yesterday in Tel Aviv at the annual conference of the real estate industry organized by the Israeli Management Center.

The survey also shows that since the elections (20 months ago) demand plunged by more than 27%.

The number of households which intend to buy apartments for themselves or one of their children in the next two years fell to 11% from 14% a year ago.

Thirty-nine percent of those who wish to buy a flat said they are looking for a 2.5-3 bedroom apartment, while 60% intend to invest less than \$125,000.

The highest demand for housing was recorded in the northern part of the country and Haifa, which accounts for 18% of the total, while the Jerusalem area attracts only 8% of the demand. The low demand for housing in the capital can be partly explained by the fact that Mod'iv amounts for 6% of the general demand.

Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush said at the conference that 1997 was one of the worst years for the property industry, saying

that housing prices fell by 19% during the first 11 months of the year from the same period in 1996.

He attributed the decrease to the slowdown in economic activity, declining numbers of new immigrants and a rise in interest rates paid on mortgages. In addition, contractors are more cautious and banks require more guarantees. He added that the property market was also faced with restrictions on the number of foreign workers and frequent closures.

Porush said the number of housing starts in 1997 is expected to fall 15% to 45,000. Porush also warned that housing starts in 1998 will not meet demand.

Contractors and Builders Association president Ori Dori predicted that the number of housing starts will continue to decline next year, falling to 38,000-40,000.

He added that the number of deals, including new and second-hand apartments, fell to 110,000 from 127,000 a year ago.

Porush said young couples don't buy apartments because the government failed to increase subsidies, leaving the average subsidized mortgage at NIS 70,000. The number of those exercising their right to enjoy subsidized loans fell by 18% in 1997.

He urged the government to intervene in the market and sup-

port the industry.

In addition, Porush said there is an immediate need for investments of about NIS 5 billion in transport infrastructure, which can

be raised by issuing debt and attracting foreign investors. He added that 75% of the new immigrants from the former Soviet Union have bought a home.

Knesset OK's pay limits for gov't top brass

By DAVID HARRIS

The Knesset yesterday passed a preliminary reading of a bill to limit public sector pay to no more than five times the average wage.

The proposal, introduced by Shlomo Ben-Ami (Labor), was approved by 16 votes to 0 with government support. The bill is aimed at directors general of ministries, mayors and those holding equivalent positions, according to Ben-Ami.

Such people "must show personal responsibility when it comes to illegal wage excesses," said Ben-Ami. "Specifically at this crisis time of high unemployment there must be a sign of solidarity between the haves and have-nots, the weak and the strong, the employed and the unemployed whose world has been destroyed."

The Treasury has established a team to investigate wage excesses in the upper echelons of the public sector and has threatened to prosecute those found to be in breach of the law. The Treasury is particularly concerned by wage excesses in the local authorities, which have built up huge deficits in recent years.

"The Treasury efforts to find solutions via budget arrangements are not working," said Ben-Ami. "The Knesset must decide on a law that will sort out wages in the public service."

Talks between the Treasury and Histadrut over public sector wages for the next two years were launched on Tuesday night.

Treasury Wages and Labor Agreements Director Yossi Kucik said he was determined to ensure that wages do not rise above the rate of inflation, to help reduce public sector expenditures and keep the budget deficit within the government-approved target of 2.4 percent in 1998 and down to 1.5% by 2001.

Azrieli: Property market has stabilized

The recent drop in real estate prices signals a "settling down to more realistic terms" rather than the start of a Hong Kong-style crash, David Azrieli, developer of the Shalom Project, said yesterday.

"Real estate prices were too high," said the Montreal-based developer. "I believe that they have now stabilized and will stay that way."

Experts say real estate prices have fallen anywhere from 5% to 20% since the middle of 1996.

Despite a slowdown in the economy and a decrease in the number of immigrants, Azrieli said the Israeli economy is "better than ever," due primarily to the burgeoning high-tech industry and the government's efforts to privatize state-owned companies and force certain sectors to divest their holdings.

Last week Azrieli announced that he purchased 75% of Bank Leumi subsidiary International Consultants, a real-estate holding company, for \$30m. The transaction was the result of government directives forcing banks to dispose of non-banking activities.

"Things are moving in the right direction. Believe me, sales are not down, leasing is not down," he said. "As they say, the developer is crying themselves all the way to the bank."

Azrieli, who has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in Israel, is currently working on several other potential investments, which he declined to elaborate.

Jennifer Friedlin

Koor negotiating with PA on cellular network

Koor is conducting intensive negotiations with the Palestinian Authority to set up and operate a cellular telephone network in its territory. It would use GSM technology, in conjunction with Canadian telecommunications manufacturer

Nortel (Nortel). The project is estimated to be worth hundreds of millions of dollars. The negotiations are being conducted by Koor general manager Benny Gaon, Nortel representatives and a senior figure in the PA.

At the same time, Motorola International is also conducting negotiations with the PA to set up a cellular network. The talks have run into many difficulties, while there has been progress in the negotiations with Koor.

Koor has widespread connections with the PA, supplying all its cement needs through Neshar and all its steel through Steel Works.

Koor has reportedly been negotiating with the PA over the cellular network for the last three years, with no connection to the tender published a year ago.

Koor's spokesperson refused to respond to the report, stating that the concern does not comment on its activities with the PA.

On Tuesday, Nortel Communication Holdings, a subsidiary of Nortel, acquired a 20 percent stake in ArelNet, a Yavne-based developer of networking systems, through a private placement of \$5 million.

Earlier this year Nortel bought 20% of Telrad Telecommunication and Electronic Industries for \$45m.

THE JERUSALEM POST

ISRAEL is more than a few pages

Israel Ports and Railways Authority Ports Development Administration Notice of Planned Procurement and "Pre-Qualification" of Contractors

Pursuant to the Agreement on Government Procurement and the Tender Laws of the State of Israel, The Israel Ports and Railways Authority ("PRA") notifies

MARINE CONTRACTORS

that it anticipates that the PRA will be tendering for the supply of works from Qualified Marine Contractors for the Construction of a Staging Harbour in the Port of Ashdod.

1. The Marine Contractor which will carry out the works will be chosen in accordance with a selective competitive process from among those Marine Contractors which have been Pre-Qualified. The process may involve negotiations.
2. The Pre-Qualification Documents for Marine Contractors may be obtained from Eng. Shai Vaxman, S.A.D.G. Engineering & Construction Ltd., Ashdod North Port Eng. Shai Vaxman, S.A.D.G. Engineering & Construction Ltd., Ashdod 77139, Israel, beginning on December 18, 1997 - Project, 4 Hata'asia Street, Tel Aviv 67139, Israel, beginning on December 18, 1997 and until January 15, 1998, between 8:30 and 15:30, Sundays through Thursdays, after payment of N.I.S. 2,340 including VAT (which sum is approximately \$660 US) by means of a check in N.I.S. made out to the order of the "Ports and Railways Authority" delivered to:
Menachem Halperin, Treasurer
Ports and Railways Authority, Head Office
Room 1121
74 Petach Tikvah Road
Tel Aviv, 67215, Israel
The Pre-Qualification Documents, completed in English, must be received by the PRA at the address set out in the Documents no later than 14:00 on Sunday, February 1, 1998.
3. A conference in connection with the Staging Harbour works will be held at the Port of Ashdod, Visitor's Center, on January 12, 1998 at 10:00. Participation in the Conference is not mandatory but is highly recommended.
4. The Pre-Qualification Process shall be governed solely by the provisions contained in the Pre-Qualification Documents. In order to be designated by the PRA as a Qualified Marine Contractor, the Marine Contractor must demonstrate that it meets the requirements set out in full in the Pre-Qualification Documents. The professional requirements, in brief summary form, are as follows:
Experience in the construction of Rubble Mound Breakwaters (or Seawalls) and of Anchored Steel Sheet-Pile Walls and in Dredging and Filling for sea reclamation.
5. In the event that a Non-Israeli Qualified Contractor is chosen to carry out the works, it must enter into an Undertaking for Commercial Cooperation with the State of Israel with regard to the limited incorporation of domestic content, offset procurement, or transfer of technology. The Undertaking will pertain to 35% of the Contract Price - out of which percentage domestic sub-contracting will amount to at least 20% of the Contract Price.
6. A more detailed summary of the requirements and terms ("Summary Announcement of Planned Procurement"), including details of the financial requirements, legal status requirements, etc., will be furnished by the PRA via Fax, without charge, upon request requirements, Tel: +972-3-562-2080; Fax: +972-3-562-0044; E-Mail: to Eng. Shai Vaxman, Tel: +972-3-562-2080; Fax: +972-3-562-0044; E-Mail: pcmc_ash@netvision.net.il. It is not anticipated that any further notices will be published in connection with this procurement.

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MUTUAL FUNDS

LEUMI PRA

48% of non-profit organizations conceal earnings

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Forty-eight percent of Jerusalem-based non-profit organizations and public institutions conceal their earnings from the Income Tax Authority, a statement issued yesterday said.

A raid on non-profit institutions conducted this week revealed 148 organizations that receive special tax status - including museums, old-age homes, dental clinics, publishing houses and community centers - are in violation of the tax law. Inspectors also found that 38 percent of the organizations keep inaccurate books.

Income Tax Commissioner Doron Levy said such violations are proving to be widespread. "This is the third operation we conducted this year, and in all of them similar findings were discovered," said Levy. He said that some violators may lose their special tax status.

The Income Tax Authority said the violations total about NIS 2 million.

During questioning, investigators found that several institutions had hidden revenues of up to NIS 350,000.



Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, MISHKANIM LEADING INDEX TRADING SHARES, LAST CHANGE. Lists various stock indices and their changes.



Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, RETZEF CONTINUOUS TRADING SHARES, LAST CHANGE. Lists various stock indices and their changes.

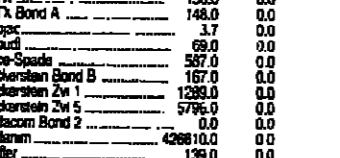


Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, KARAM SMALL CAPITALIZATION TRADING SHARES, LAST CHANGE. Lists various stock indices and their changes.

Main table listing various stocks and their prices, organized in columns with 'LAST CHANGE' headers.

Table listing various stocks and their prices, organized in columns with 'LAST CHANGE' headers.



Table listing international shares and their prices, organized in columns with 'LAST CHANGE' headers.

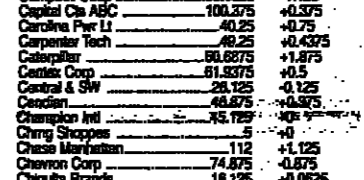


Table listing Israeli shares abroad and their prices, organized in columns with 'LAST CHANGE' headers.

Table listing various stocks and their prices, organized in columns with 'LAST CHANGE' headers.

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CRITICS' CHOICE

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Mark Ravenhill's newsmaking Shopping and F***ing, directed by Max Stafford-Clark and performed by his Out of Joint theater company, indicates the rootless, loveless, transactional '90s. The four young flatmates are English but they could be any of today's urban youth. At Tel Aviv's ZOA House tonight at 7, tomorrow at 10 and 10 p.m. and Saturday at 7 and 10 p.m.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

The Authentica early music series presents Jordi Savall and his Hesperion XX in a program of Medieval Spanish music entitled Paradise Lost. Local oud player Yair Dellel is the guest musician on the program. Tonight at the Noga Theater in Jaffa and Saturday at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem.

Antonio Pappano leads the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in Beethoven's Fifth Symphony as well as the Pavane and Requiem by Faure. Saturday and next Monday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv (8:30).

The Friday noon choral series at the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv opens tomorrow with the Yoav Choir singing music by Mendelssohn, Brahms, Debussy, as well as Avni, Seter, Admon and others.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** AFULA EXPRESS - Julie Shles's



Jordi Savall and Hesperion XX present a program of Medieval Spanish music tonight and Saturday.

first feature film, about an aspiring though inept magician (Zvika Hadar) and his long-suffering girlfriend (Esti Zakheim), is a mixed bag. The landlady winner at this year's Israeli Oscars, it has a big heart, a gently bittersweet sense of humor and several endearing performances. Amit Lior's dialogue is clever and quick, and Shles manages to create an atmosphere that skillfully mixes elements of the characters' harsh reality and their fanciful fantasy lives. After the initial impressive 40 minutes or so, though, the movie simply loses its way: they've worked hard up to this point to establish a believable texture and real-seeming people, but Shles and Lior stop trusting themselves and overshoot the dramatic mark, reverting to cheap theatrics and formulaic plot twists. (Hebrew dialogue. Only certain prints have English subtitles: check with your local cinema. Parental guidance strongly advised.)

TV schedule table for Channel 1, Educational TV, Channel 2, Hebrew Programs, Arabic Programs, and Cable channels (ITV 3, Family Channel, etc.).

PRIME TIME TV schedule table with columns for time slots (19:30, 20:00, 20:30, 21:00, 22:00, 22:30, 23:00) and program titles.

WEATHER section featuring a map of Israel and surrounding regions with weather forecasts for various cities like Jerusalem, Haifa, and Tel Aviv.

WINNING CARDS section with a graphic of playing cards and text about daily chance drawings.

Home Delivery of THE JERUSALEM POST section with contact information for subscriptions and inquiries.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD section containing clues for across and down words, such as 'Irish leader embraced by Scandinavian woman' and 'Many a remarkable man is solitary'.

QUICK CROSSWORD section with a crossword puzzle grid and clues for across and down words.

JERUSALEM section listing various events, performances, and exhibitions, including 'The Truce' and 'The Game'.

MOVIES section listing film titles, showtimes, and theaters, such as 'Fever Pitch', 'The Game', and 'Mortal Combat'.

MOVIES section (continued) listing film titles, showtimes, and theaters, including 'The Game' and 'Mortal Combat'.

MOVIES section (continued) listing film titles, showtimes, and theaters, including 'The Game' and 'Mortal Combat'.

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